

DAILY REPORT

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MINISTRY LIFTS PHILIPPINES TRAVEL WARNING

OW010822 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO -- The Ministry of Transport withdrew Wednesday a notice which urged Japanese travelers not to make unnecessary trips to the Philippines, officials said.

The ministry issued the notice on January 29 to Japanese travel agents and Japan air lines, more than two months after Japanese business executive Nobuyuki Wakaoji was kidnapped in the Philippines.

It withdrew the notice Wednesday after Wakaoji was released by his captors Tuesday night.

Philippine officials earlier expressed displeasure with the notice. But Transport Ministry officials said they issued it because the kidnappers had threatened to abduct other Japanese.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON U.S. TRADE POLICY

More on Special Envoy

OW011131 Tokyo KYODO in English 1057 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO -- Former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe will visit Washington in April for talks with U.S. Government and congressional leaders on ways to ease the current trade dispute between Japan and the United States, government officials said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone met Abe Wednesday afternoon and asked him to visit the U.S. capital as his special envoy. Abe, chairman of the Executive Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, accepted the assignment and agreed to take Nakasone's personal letter to President Ronald Reagan. Party officials said Abe is expected to leave for Washington after mid-April.

Abe, who was foreign minister until last July will meet with key members of the Reagan administration as well as Democratic and Republican Party leaders while in the American capital.

Abe is likely to find a way to create an environment for a political settlement of the Japan-U.S. economic friction during his trip as advanceman for Nakasone's U.S. visit scheduled for April 29-May 5.

Reagan last week announced scheduled imposition of penalty duties on Japanese electrical goods in retaliation for alleged dumping of semiconductor chips on third-country markets.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda told a news conference Wednesday evening Abe was chosen to go to the U.S. as Nakasone's special envoy because he has American acquaintances he came to know during his tenure as foreign minister.

Gotoda also said that as an LDP member Abe is capable of deepening the dialogue with U.S. congressional leaders.

The chief cabinet spokesman said Abe's trip to the U.S. prior to Nakasone's scheduled visit will be useful and may serve as a breakthrough in their present economic dispute.

Abe was reportedly asked to decide the exact date of his departure. He may leave Tokyo after April 12's local assembly elections.

He told reporters he will not go to the U.S. for negotiations but only to deepen the dialogue with American Government and congressional leaders.

Senior government officials, meanwhile, said that the government may work out an outline of comprehensive economic measures before Abe's departure.

Abe is also expected to brief the U.S. side on Japan's basic stance regarding such critical bilateral economic issues as semiconductors, American participation in the construction of the new Kansai Airport in Osaka and in a second KDD (International Telephone and Telegraph) enterprise.

MITI Officials Leave for U.S.

OW011117 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO -- Two high-ranking officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will leave for Washington Thursday to pave the way for emergency U.S.-Japanese talks on the semiconductor trade dispute. Ministry officials said one of them will be Shigeo Muraoka, head of the ministry's Trade Policy Bureau.

Japan has proposed the emergency meeting in an effort to avert the implementation of U.S. retaliatory action announced by U.S. President Ronald Reagan last week. Reagan threatened that his administration will impose 100 percent tariffs on Japanese imports using Japanese semiconductors, up to a limit of 300 million dollars.

At the full-scale negotiations, expected to be held on April 10, Japanese chief delegate Makoto Kuroda, deputy MITI minister, will seek a U.S. explanation of the presidential announcement.

Access to U.S. Markets Studied

OW011111 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO -- A special trade panel of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) agreed in principle Wednesday to strive for easier U.S. access to Japanese markets in order to alleviate strained bilateral trade relations.

The Special Commission on International Economic Affairs discussed five problem areas: semiconductors, supercomputers, the Kansai International Airport project, cellular phones, and the next generation of support fighters, commission sources said.

The board also agreed that Japan's current state of affairs has to be explained very clearly to the U.S. in order to allow a better understanding of just what Japan can do to solve the trade issues between the two countries.

More specifically, the panel said it will rely on a delegation from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), to be headed by Makoto Kuroda, MITI's vice minister for international affairs, to explain Japan's position on the semiconductor issue. The delegation is scheduled to visit the U.S. shortly.

It also recommended inquiring into the purchase of U.S. supercomputers by government agencies and determining whether or not U.S. supercomputers can be rented.

As to the participation of U.S. companies in the multibillion-dollar Kansai International Airport project, the panel said a study should be made to see what areas of the project U.S. companies can participate in during the second stage of construction, the sources said.

Kuranari Plans To Pave Way

OW310327 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari is thinking of making an advance trip to Washington to pave the way for Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's April 29-May 5 visit to the United States, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday. The official, who spoke on conditions of anonymity, said Kuranari hopes to prepare the ground for the Nakasone visit in view of a worsening trade friction, especially over semiconductor trade, between the two countries.

Kuranari may leave for the United States around April 25. A definite itinerary cannot be finalized until the schedule of Diet business is determined, the official said. Kuranari will accompany Nakasone in the prime minister's official U.S. visit. Kuranari had planned to visit the United States earlier this month, but was forced to cancel his plan because of stalled Diet business.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party summoned a caucus meeting Tuesday to hammer out fresh government policy on U.S.-Japan trade, and the senior Foreign Ministry official said he hopes the policy package will be ready in time for Kuranari's trip.

Extend Trade Concern to Europe

OW301117 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari said Monday Japan should extend its concern over trade to Europe and not limit its focus to the United States. Kuranari made the statement at a regular top-level meeting of government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials, a government official said.

The official said the comment was in reference to a recent call by the European Community foreign ministers' meeting for Japan to import more European products to attain a "balance of benefits" in trade along with British moves to retaliate against Japan on trade and financial markets in response to slow progress on the participation of Britain's Cable and Wireless in a Japanese telecommunication project.

Japan is now very much concerned with the U.S. retaliatory tariff plan announced last Saturday in response to Japan's alleged violation of a bilateral semiconductor accord. Japan must avoid possible coordination by Americans and Europeans in "Japan bashing" amid growing retaliatory threats by the two trading partners, said the official who requested anonymity.

Chip Issue To Be Raised

OW011207 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO -- Japan will raise its semiconductor trade dispute with the United States at a committee meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris April 8-10, government officials said Wednesday.

The officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Japan will present its side of the dispute at the meeting of the organization's trade committee.

The European Community reacted harshly to the U.S.-Japanese agreement on semiconductor trade, signed last September, as a violation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The EC claimed that the bilateral arrangement was designed to control the world semiconductor market.

The ministry officials said Japan will make it clear that the agreement was aimed at preventing "dumping" overseas and therefore was of benefit to EC countries.

Some EC nations complained that the U.S.-Japanese agreement will eventually compel them to purchase high-priced computer chips.

Japan will also emphasize that it will try to open its semiconductor market to all manufacturers, not only American but also European, the officials said.

Envoy Briefs Nakasone on U.S.

OW311215 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone should discuss global Japan-U.S. relations with U.S. President Ronald Reagan next month, focusing on how to manage bilateral ties, including boiling economic issues, Ambassador to Washington Nobuo Matsunaga said Tuesday.

In a press conference following a meeting with Nakasone, Matsunaga said he had proposed to the premier that he should coordinate policies with Reagan on East-West relations, including an expected U.S.-Soviet summit and arms control and regional problems, to pave the way for the coming summit of seven industrial nations to be held in Venice, Italy in June.

Nakasone is scheduled to pay an official visit to the United States April 29-May 5.

Matsunaga, here since Sunday to brief key government, political and economic leaders on recent developments relating to Japan in the U.S., said he had proposed to Nakasone that the two leaders should also discuss how to manage overall U.S.-Japan relations.

He said he told Nakasone that economic issues now dominate bilateral relations, and called on the premier to make full preparations on how to solve the boiling economic issues, such as how to increase Japan's domestic demand, the semiconductor "dumping" issue, U.S. participation in the Kansai International Airport project and the Second KDD and the purchase of supercomputers.

He said he cited agricultural trade items like beef and rice, as well as auto parts as prospective issues between the two nations in the future.

He also told Nakasone Japan should do its utmost to have the U.S. withdraw retaliatory measures connected with microchips as early as possible, and in a "correct way," by pointing out questionable U.S. assertions. He said the issue is one of the "cracks" in relations between the two countries.

He told Nakasone his Washington visit will be crucial, as it comes at a time when Americans have stepped up criticism against Japan over trade matters.

The envoy said Nakasone should present concrete and upgraded plans for stimulating Japan's domestic economy and tackling other issues.

Envoy Urges Answers To Issue

OW011337 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO -- Japanese ambassador to the United States Nobuo Matsunaga said Wednesday bilateral relations are basically healthy but Japan needs to present good, steady and concrete answers on contentious trade issues. He also told reporters the U.S. Government did not intend proposed retaliation in a dispute on semiconductor trade to look like "Japan bashing."

The retaliation, in which extra tariffs amounting to 300 million dollars would be imposed on Japanese electronic goods, was believed to have been aimed at curbing growing protests in the U.S. Congress over a trade imbalance in Japan's favor, he said.

He also said he was told by Secretary of State George Shultz the U.S. Government will not go ahead with the retaliation if Japan shows "real improvement" in semiconductor trade. Japanese companies are accused of dumping semiconductors at below fair prices.

Matsunaga, here since Sunday to brief government leaders on current developments in Washington, said the U.S. attitude toward Japan this year is "extremely severe."

He added that there is "no single and special remedy" to reduce Japan's surplus in bilateral trade, which reached a record 51.4 billion dollars last year.

Japan must carry out combined and upgraded measures to increase domestic demand, open its market and resolve trade disputes such as that on semiconductors, and the participation of U.S. firms in the new Kansai International Airport project and the "second KDD the envoy said.

Matsunaga said that while in Washington he felt very much in need of "good news" such as the past purchase by Nissan Motor Co. of Cary Research's supercomputers and by all Nippon Airways of Boeing aircraft.

Mere lip service will be of no help in solving these problems, and Japan must not simply use phrases such as "it will make efforts to do something," he added. He also said there is a perception gap between the two countries.

There are Japanese who insist that lifting important restrictions on 12 farm products would not result in a large amount of imports, while Americans wonder why Japan cannot make such a sacrifice if the import value of these products is so small.

"If Japan can narrow such a perception gap with the U.S., its image in the U.S. will be very much improved," he said.

Answering a question on Japan's export restraints, Matsunaga said such measures merely encourage Americans who favor protectionism.

Both Japan and the U.S. respect free trade and there is no alternative to attaining expanded and balanced trade between the two nations, he said.

Matsunaga said some Americans believe there are many sectors in Japan benefiting from the higher value of the yen against the dollar and that Japan's only problem is how to manage such windfall profits.

FOREIGN FIRMS NOT EXCLUDED FROM TELECOM PROJECT

OW261421 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 26 KYODO -- Shunjiro Karasawa, minister for posts and telecommunications, Thursday assured United States Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige in a letter that Japan had no intention of illegally limiting foreign equity participation in a new Japanese international telecommunications company.

Karasawa's assurance was contained in a reply to Baldrige's March 13 letter expressing fears that the Japanese Government would limit foreign participation in the new enterprise, which will end the overseas telecommunications monopoly currently enjoyed by the government-controlled Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. (KDD).

Karasawa informed Baldrige that although Japan considered inappropriate the major participation of a foreign telecommunications firm in the management of a rival to KDD, he saw no barrier to the participation of certain U.S. firms in the new telecommunications carrier.

Two rival consortia are competing for Japanese Government permission to launch a new international telephone enterprise.

One consortium, International Digital Communications Inc. (IDC), includes the British telecommunications firm Cable and Wireless PLC and the Japanese trading company C. Itoh and Co.

The other, International Telecom Japan Inc. (ITJ), is composed of several major Japanese companies including Mitsubishi corp. and Mitsui and Co.

The Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, insisting the international telecommunications market is too small to support more than one rival to KDD, has instructed the contending groups to work out a merger agreement. The two consortia have thus far been unable to reach any such agreement.

The ministry has further pointed out that no country can allow a foreign company a major share in the management of an international telecommunications enterprise. However, the British and U.S. Governments have criticized the ministry's attempt to curtail the degree of foreign participation.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter have both sent letters to Karasawa demanding he allow foreign firms a greater share in the proposed enterprises.

UK Management Share Discussed

OW311245 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO -- Posts and Telecommunications Minister Shunjiro Karasawa indicated Tuesday that the government will take a flexible attitude toward a request by Cable and Wireless PLC (C and W) of Britain for a strong voice in the management of a planned Japanese firm for international telecommunications.

He told newsmen he understood that ongoing moves among the private quarters concerned for unification of the two Japanese firms planning to enter the market were moving in the direction of allowing the same capital contributions by foreign firms as of the main Japanese investors.

C and W has a stake in International Digital Communications Planning Inc. (IDC), recently established to join in Japan's international telecommunications market, which is presently monopolized by Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. (KDD).

IDC is a joint venture of major Japanese firms, including C. Itoh and Co. and Toyota Motor Corp., as well as three foreign companies -- Pacific Telesis International Inc. and Merrill Lynch and Co. of the United States, besides C and W.

The other firm also seeking a share in the international telecommunications market is International Telecom Japan Inc. (ITJ), led by Mitsubishi Corp. and Mitsui and Co.

Moves are under way to unify the two firms in keeping with the position of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry that Japan's international telecommunications market is too small to admit two new firms.

Karasawa talked to newsmen after reporting to prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on the moves by the private quarters concerned and their international repercussions.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher reportedly said in a recent Parliament session that Britain will take retaliatory steps unless C and W is allowed a major share in Japan's international telecommunications market.

Karasawa told the prime minister that foreign investment will be welcome within the framework of the telecommunications industry law that limits foreign capital participation to less than 30 percent, government officials said.

He expressed optimism that an amicable settlement will be reached since private mediation moves are making headway on related matters, including foreign firms' equity shares and participation in management, they said. However, he was quoted as stressing his ministry's stand that only one new firm should be allowed.

In this context, the officials said, Karasawa noted that when British Telecom (BT) was privatized four years ago, it was decided to allow only one new entry until 1990, although Britain has an international telecommunications market more than twice the size of the Japanese market.

The prime minister gave no particular instructions, they said.

Only 1 KDD Rival Allowed

OWO10715 Tokyo KYODO in English 0634 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO -- Posts and telecommunications Minister Shunjiro Karasawa Wednesday repeated the government's decision that the size of the Japanese communications market warrants the entrance of no more than one new telecommunications company to challenge the monopoly currently held by Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. (KDD).

Speaking at a government conference on the controversial "second KDD" issue, Karasawa said he hoped the two rival consortia competing for government permission to enter the Japanese telecommunications market will soon arrive at a merger agreement.

Japan has received harsh criticism from within both houses of the U.S. Congress and threats of retaliatory action from the British Parliament for alleged attempts to prevent foreign firms from holding a significant share in the new telecommunications firm.

One consortium bidding for the right to challenge KDD is International Digital Communications Inc., whose members include British firm Cable and Wireless PLC. (C and W), and Pacific Telesis International Inc. and Merrill Lynch and Co. of the United States.

The other hopeful KDD rival, International Telecom Japan Inc. (ITJ), is composed entirely of Japanese companies, including Mitsubishi Corp. and Mitsui and Co.

Representatives of the two consortia have been engaged in protracted negotiations mediated by the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), but have failed so far to reach a merger agreement.

Karasawa has indicated to U.S. Government leaders that Japan has no intention of preventing the participation of foreign firms in a "second KDD," but said no country can allow a foreign company to control a major share of the management in such an immense domestic telecommunications enterprise.

Although numerous foreign enterprises have shown interest in joining a new Japanese telecommunications company, Japanese law limits total foreign participation in such enterprises to 30 percent.

SPOKESMAN CALLS FOR HALT TO AFGHAN BOMBINGS

OWO20721 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO -- Japan's Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement Thursday calling for an immediate halt to recent Afghan bombings of Pakistan that killed a number of people.

Spokesman Yoshifumi Matsuda said in the statement the bombings are against current United Nations-sponsored peace talks on Afghanistan.

U.S. IN WORLD SITUATION IN MARCH REVIEWED

SK010444 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Review of the international situation in March by station reporter Chong Song-kang: "The U.S. Imperialists' Aggressive Maneuvers To Start a Thermonuclear War Have Been Further Stepped Up"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Due to the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war maneuvers, world peace and security have been threatened and mankind faces the danger of nuclear disasters.

What attracts our attention in the international situation in March is that despite the unanimous desire of the peace-loving people of the world for durable world peace and security, the U.S. imperialists' aggression and war maneuvers to start a nuclear war throughout the world have been carried out in a much more wicked manner. During the month, the U.S. imperialists stepped up reckless military provocations and threatening maneuvers throughout the world more than ever before. In particular, the U.S. imperialists have extremely heightened tension on the Korean peninsula and in the area around it by deploying vast aggressive troops and by staging nuclear war exercises in this region.

As already known, the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise is being frantically staged in South Korea through the mobilization of more than 200,000 U.S. forces and puppet army troops. The military movements of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan puppets over the month or so since the war exercise was launched clearly show that this military exercise is the act of playing with fire to provoke a war of northward invasion and is a nuclear experimental war.

For the war exercise, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have organized one aircraft carrier battle group with various warships, including the nuclear-powered cruiser "Long Beach" and the "Blue Ridge," the flagship of the 7th Fleet, with the aircraft carrier "Ranger" as the axis. The "Houston," a nuclear-powered submarine, which carries the Tomahawk cruise missile, is scurrying about the sea around the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors have mobilized various types of offensive aircraft, including B-52 strategic bombers belonging to the rascals' Strategic Air Command deployed on Guam in the Pacific Ocean and F-15, F-16, A-4, and E-10 [as heard] aircraft. They are nuclear military hardware capable of carrying nuclear weapons. Such nuclear military hardware aims at a nuclear attack against the northern half of the republic and at expanding a nuclear war to a global scale.

For the exercise, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have mobilized the cargo tankers KC-10A and KC-130 called flying fuel pumps. The rascals' deployment of cargo tankers in the war exercise is needed to expand the radius of action of their aircraft to areas outside the Korean peninsula.

What is much more noticeable is the fact that E-4B plane called nuclear command plane is deployed for the "Team Spirit" war exercise this year, simulating an all-out nuclear war. This directly shows that the "Team Spirit" war exercise, which has been expanded step by step, is an all-out nuclear war exercise designed to strike our republic and socialist countries. Accordingly, foreign news reports describe the "Team Spirit" war exercise being staged by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the Chon Tu-hwan puppets as an exercise within the framework of the U.S. global strategy as well as of the Korean peninsula and is an exercise that simulates an all-out nuclear war.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors have stepped up military provocative maneuvers in Central America to heighten tension. While implicitly and explicitly maneuvering to foil the efforts of the Cotnadora and Lima groups to peacefully resolve Central American questions, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have staged a U.S.-Honduran joint military exercise called "Big Pine-87" [name of exercise in English] over the past month by massing vast aggressive troops in the area around Nicaragua. Under the pretext of immediately responding to a request from Honduras in connection with someone's attack, the U.S. imperialist aggressors plan to stage a war exercise called "Solid Shield" [name of exercise in English] in Central America and the Caribbean Sea.

Thus, the U.S. imperialist aggressors are maneuvering to exterminate the Nicaraguan revolution that advances along the anti-imperialist road toward independence by continuously staging war exercises, small and large, in Central America. It has already been exposed that having considered their anti-Nicaraguan maneuvers as part of their global strategy, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have long threatened the Nicaraguan people by deploying aggressive troops in the area around Nicaragua and by continuously staging war exercises, small and large. However, no maneuver of the U.S. imperialist aggressors to meddle in Nicaragua with arms will frighten the Nicaraguan people.

The U.S. imperialists' maneuvers of aggression and interference have been exposed in the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf area. In recent years, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have tried to make a dangerous military venture by sending a powerful marine strike force comprised of the "Kitty Hawk," the aircraft carrier of the U.S. imperialists' 7th Fleet, to the Straits of Hormuz. The excuse is that they will protect ships that pass through this strait from a threat from someone.

On 20 March, U.S. secretary of Defense Weinberger made violent remarks that the United States will take all necessary measures to achieve security in the Straits of Hormuz. It is well known that under the plausible pretext of protection and security, the United States has engaged in brazen interference in countries that oppose imperialism and seek independence.

By mobilizing many NATO nations, the U.S. imperialist aggressors conducted a command post exercise called "(?Impact)-87" [name of exercise in English] in West Europe in March, simulating a nuclear war. Thus, the U.S. imperialist aggressors extremely strained the international situation in March by continuously staging nuclear war exercises, small and large, throughout the world.

What is noticeable in the international situation in March is that the U.S. imperialist aggressors have greatly accelerated the development and production of new nuclear weapons. On 18 March, the U.S. imperialist aggressors conducted another nuclear test at the nuclear test ground in Nevada. This clearly shows that the U.S. imperialist aggressors are not at all interested in nuclear arms reduction and that they are desperately trying to implement a criminal plan to impose another nuclear disaster on mankind by accelerating the development of nuclear weapons.

What attracts our attention is that the U.S. imperialist aggressors have brazenly revealed an attempt to greatly increase aggressive armed forces throughout the world. In particular, such maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists have been intensively manifested in the Far East and in the Asian and Pacific region. The rascals have announced a plan to deploy and install a new model of the Hawk missile unit in Okinawa and one offensive-type helicopter battalion and multiple rocket launcher support system in the 2d U.S. Infantry Division occupying South Korea.

In recent years, the U.S. imperialists have disclosed a plan to activate a Pacific army in the near future with its headquarters in Hawaii and to greatly increase the military capability of the U.S. Army troops in this region. The aim of the U.S. imperialist aggressors' attempt to activate a Pacific army is to lay a large-scale ground frontline by placing army troops in the Asian and Pacific region under a single command system and by flexibly deploying vast army troops in this region on a frontline that requires them.

The U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to conduct nuclear tests and to develop nuclear weapons, which have become further brazen with the passage of time, have evoked unanimous protest and denunciation from the people of the world. During the month, the struggle has been continuously and vigorously waged in many countries in the world to oppose the U.S. imperialist aggressors' repeated nuclear tests.

The overall trend of the international situation in March much more clearly shows that the U.S. imperialist aggressors are the ringleaders of war, nuclear maniacs, and the wicked stranglers of national independence and peace. Accordingly, the broad strata of the peace-loving people of the world, terming the U.S. imperialist aggressors as nuclear maniacs, strongly urge them to immediately stop their maneuvers for a nuclear war. If the U.S. imperialist aggressors frantically run amok to start a thermonuclear war despite protest and denunciation from the people of the world, the rascals will be further isolated and rejected and will eventually be burned to death in the flames of this isolation and rejection.

NODONG SINMUN: NEW U.S. FORCE FOR NEW STRATEGY

SK270523 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA) -- The U.S. scheme to form a new Pacific ground force is under fire in NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today.

They say this is another noteworthy military move of the U.S. imperialists accelerating the preparation of a new war in the Asian-Pacific region and a grave challenge to peace in Korea and the world.

NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary headlined "U.S. Imperialists' Backbone Force on Far Eastern Front" says:

The formation of the new Pacific ground force proves that greater importance is attached to the Asian-Pacific region in the execution of the U.S. imperialists' world strategy to unleash a new great war and attack the socialist forces of the world.

The massive buildup of the Pacific ground force by the United States may be viewed as intended to go over to a new strategic system for deploying a front in land as well as in the sea, with the mobilization of a huge ground force, from the "sea strategy" to attack the socialist countries from the sea mainly with the naval and air forces.

The U.S. imperialist war maniacs made this plain when they blared that the U.S. Army units in South Korea and Japan in particular would be reinforced in the formation of the new Pacific ground force.

The sharp edge of the spear of the new Pacific ground force to be formed by the United States will be directed against the Korean peninsula and other socialist countries.

The Korean people can not but heighten vigilance against the new military move of the United States toward the formation of the new Pacific ground force. The U.S. scheme to reinforce its ground force in the Asian-Pacific region will pose a great threat to the socialist countries, while aggravating the tensions and increasing the danger of war, above all, on the Korean peninsula.

The reckless moves of the war-likers to make the Korean peninsula a main battle field of a new world war must be checked and frustrated.

DAILY COMMENTARY ON U.S. NUCLEAR PLANNING UNIT

SK020730 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2150 GMT 1 Apr 87

[NODONG SINMUN 2 April commentary: "An Indictment of the Nuclear Fanatics"]

[Text] It has been exposed through the article by Peter Hayes, chief researcher of the U.S. Nautilus Pacific Research Institute, carried in the 3 April edition of the Japanese weekly ASAHI JOURNAL, that a nuclear planning unit, which formulates nuclear launching plans through a nuclear target analysis and prepares emergency nuclear plans, exists in South Korea.

Hayes exposed that the presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea is not for the purpose of defending South Korea from an attack by North Korea, although the United States asserts this, but rather to defend U.S. national interests.

The U.S. imperialists have so far concealed the deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea and the acceleration of their nuclear war preparation maneuvers. At the same time, they have justified the U.S. forces' occupation of South Korea on the pretext of a bogus threat of southward invasion. The Hayes article is a letter of indictment which once again clearly exposes the falsity of the U.S. imperialists' facade of the threat of southward invasion and their criminal nuclear war schemes.

It is an acknowledged fact that the U.S. imperialists have introduced 1,000-odd nuclear weapons into South Korea and recently even deployed neutron weapons, which have been branded the Devil's weapon, thus spurring nuclear war preparations. However, the information newly disclosed this time should make the world vigilant over the danger of the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war schemes.

According to Hayes, since 1983, the U.S. imperialists, according to a joint operational plan, have planned to deeply invade North Korea by using ultramodern conventional weapons in case of a war in Korea and to use small high-performance nuclear weapons and, in particular, to launch nuclear weapons by utilizing the weapons systems of the puppet army. To this end, the U.S. and puppet armed forces are said to regularly huddle in connection with their nuclear war plan.

According to a secret document which the commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea released last year, in South Korea the U.S. imperialists have reportedly organized a quasi-military organization to eliminate nuclear, biological, and chemical pollution; i.e., pollution following a nuclear war. This shows that the U.S. imperialists regard a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula as a fait accompli, and are meticulously accelerating its preparations.

While raving before the world that there will be neither a winner nor a loser in nuclear war, nuclear war preparations are being rapidly carried out on the Korean peninsula. This shows the shamelessness and wickedness of the nuclear fanatic U.S. imperialist warmongers.

Nothing can tolerate the act of the U.S. imperialists, who have selected the Korean peninsula across the ocean as a site of nuclear confrontation and are trying to make the Korean nation a victim of a nuclear proxy war.

The problem is that the U.S. imperialists seek to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula not on a planning stage but on a practical stage. It is necessary to remember the ominous military moves of the U.S. imperialists and puppets in recent years. According to what was made known some time ago, in South Korea there exists a quick nuclear reaction unit which manages nuclear weapons and maintains round-the-clock war readiness with the capability of launching nuclear-laden bombers within 5 minutes in a contingency.

Through the security consultative meetings and the military committee meetings with the South Korean puppets, the U.S. imperialists have held war confabs to further accelerate chemical war preparations, along with nuclear war preparations.

Raving about strengthening the combat capabilities of the puppet forces, the U.S. imperialists have turned all kinds of missiles over to the puppets. Last year they even introduced F-16 fighter-bombers, which are a nuclear delivery means, and have assigned them to the puppet air force.

The U.S. imperialists have worked out an offensive strategy to carry out a triphibious attack against the northern half of the Republic, indiscriminately in the front and rear areas, from the sky, land, and sea by mobilizing conventional and nuclear weapons and electronic means. They are now perfecting it through the "Team Spirit" war exercise.

It was in 1983 that their offensive strategy was introduced into "Team Spirit." This shows that the joint operational plan is precisely a nuclear war plan.

Even at this moment, by mobilizing even all-out nuclear war command equipment, the U.S. imperialists and puppets, with all areas of South Korea as a stage, are running amok in staging the "Team Spirit-87" war exercise, postulating a nuclear attack against us.

Under the circumstances of the U.S. imperialist aggressors stockpiling numerous nuclear weapons and even organizing a nuclear unit, and staging a nuclear war exercise in an atmosphere of actual warfare, it is clear that they will ignite a nuclear war at any time for their interests.

Today, as the fascist military colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan ring is in an unprecedented crisis, they increasingly persist in seeking a nuclear war in order to maintain their positions in South Korea.

Always with high vigilance, we will counter the nuclear war maneuvers of northward invasion which the U.S. imperialists and puppets frantically accelerate in South Korea. The U.S. imperialist aggressors, who threaten peace and security on the Korean peninsula and the world with reckless nuclear war maneuvers, and the Chon Tu-hwan ring, the servant who pulls their cart of nuclear war, will ace world denunciation.

SOVIET PAPERS CITED DENOUNCING 'TEAM SPIRIT-87'

SK011019 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA) -- Soviet papers recently published articles denouncing the "Team Spirit 87" joint manoeuvres being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

In a commentary titled "Dangerous War Game" PRAVDA said:

"Washington and Seoul are loudly advertising the "defensive nature" of the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres, raising outcries over fictitious "threat from the North." But, in the course of this war game, strikes by landing parties and attack strikes "in the northern direction" are being "completed" and exercises simulating application of nuclear and chemical weapons are in progress.

"KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" pointed out in its commentary that the "Team Spirit 87" is designed to "round off" a comprehensive military system for surprise strikes at the northern part of the Korean peninsula from the sky, land and sea.

Noting that, moreover, the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons is taken into consideration in the current manoeuvres, the paper drew attention to the participation of the U.S. plane "E-4B" in the exercises.

"SELSKAYA ZHIZN", under the headline "Provocative Military Exercises," said the "Team Spirit 87" joint military manoeuvres marked one more step forward on the road to the formation of a three-way military alliance involving South Korea and Japan in the Far East under the aegis of the United States.

KCNA REPORTS ON PREPARATION FOR YOUTH FESTIVAL

SK311012 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA) -- Preparations are brisk in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a successful hosting of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students scheduled for the summer of 1989.

The Korean preparatory committee for the festival was formed on March 3 under the meticulous care of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Appropriate subcommittees were set up under the committee.

The Culture and Art Subcommittee is promoting the programming of international performances conforming to the idea of anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship of the world youth.

Amateur art contests of working youth, students and other young people are briskly going on to select successful stage pieces for the festival.

People's artistes, merited artistes, and other well-known actors and actresses of all art troupes are also preparing festival programs.

A large number of young writers, poets, composers and artists are now creating excellent works reflecting the idea of the festival and the demand of the times.

The Sports Subcommittee is preparing colorful events and sports functions.

Our sportsmen are busy with training themselves for aerial model, parachuting and other flying events, sea sports and an exhibition taegwondo performance as well as international games scheduled during the festival.

Work is on the way to publish picture albums, postcards, folded maps, guidebooks, etc. to give foreigners wide knowledge of the DPRK developing and prospering day by day.

The badge of the festival was already adopted. It bears the drawings of the earth and a pigeon with letters "Pyongyang", surrounded by five flower petals symbolic of anti-imperialist solidarity, friendship, unity and peace among the youth and students of the five continents.

Construction is at its height for the successful hosting of the festival.

The construction of more than 100 new objects for political, art and sports functions including gymnasiums, stadiums, theatres, clubs, open-air meeting places, outdoor stages and international hotels, is progressing vigorously. The Kwangbok Street resembling a city is taking shape for the festival.

The Korean young men and women set one of the Sundays of each month as "day of support to the festival" during the preparations. On this day, they dedicate their energy to production and construction.

VNS CRITICIZES U.S. 8TH ARMY REORGANIZATION

SK010952 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 1310 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] During this hour, we will discuss the Reagan administration's strengthening of the position of the U.S. Eighth Army in South Korea.

It has already been reported that the United States will activate a Pacific army. According to a plan to reorganize the U.S. Army, which U.S. Army Secretary John Marsh announced on 27 March, while the U.S. forces in Hawaii and Japan will be placed under the command of the U.S. Pacific Army Command, the U.S. Eighth Army in South Korea will independently exercise the right of operational command we see today.

The aim of the U.S. plan to activate a Pacific army is to strengthen close relations of cooperation between the U.S. forces and Japan's Self-Defense Forces and to maintain a positive operation posture with the U.S. forces in South Korea. The U.S. plan to strengthen the independent operational command system of the U.S. forces in South Korea is heinously designed to let both they and the South Korean Army troops under their command take quick actions by directly receiving the order for northward invasion from Washington, bypassing the Pacific Army Command, in case the U.S. ruling circles decide to provoke a new war on the Korean peninsula.

As known, the commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea holds simultaneously the posts of commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, commander of South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces, and UN forces commander. Under his command are Air Force and naval units, as well as U.S. Army units and South Korean Army troops numbering nearly a million.

Viewing this, the Pentagon's plan to strengthen the independent status of the Eighth Army commander, who has vast and mighty armed forces and rights, implies that with approval from Washington, war will be provoked at any moment according to the decision of the commander of the U.S. Eighth Army in South Korea, the commander of the forces on the spot. This is a violent challenge to our people and the international community that desire the alleviation of tension and peace on the Korean peninsula and a serious threat that increases the danger of war.

After expanding and reorganizing U.S. Air Force units last year in South Korea formerly under the command of the U.S. Fifth Air Force in Japan into the independent 7th Air Force, the United States quickly increased this force's capability by deploying on this land a large number of aircraft, including sophisticated F-16 fighter-bombers capable of carrying nuclear bombs.

In addition to deploying 150 nuclear bombs, shells, and mines at the Air Force base in Osan, the United States has deployed more than 1,000 various nuclear weapons in South Korea, thus turning it into the largest nuclear storehouse in the Far East. The United States has also deployed nuclear units in this land. In November last year, it decided to deploy a Lance nuclear missile battalion here.

In particular, what we cannot overlook is that in the wake of the deployment of the various means of nuclear war, including E-4B aircraft, a flying nuclear war command post for the criminal "Team Spirit-87" being staged in this land, the United States is frantically staging an exercise to complete nuclear offensive operations through the mobilization of nuclear Army, Navy, and Air Force units.

The U.S. decision to further strengthen the position of the U.S. Eighth Army in South Korea at this crucial moment shows that the Reagan administration is frantically running amok to provoke a new war on the Korean peninsula and that this attempt is being quickly carried out during a very dangerous stage. This shows that the U.S. imperialists are a group of war maniacs, who seek not the alleviation of tension and peace on the Korean peninsula, but only war, and are the arch enemies of our people.

Our people should not tolerate the criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists to provoke a nuclear war in this land and sacrifice our 3,000-ri land and people. By courageously waging the anti-U.S., antiwar, and antinuclear struggle in unison as a pan-national movement, our people should check and foil the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to provoke a new war, force the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons to withdraw, and turn this land into a nuclear-free, peace zone devoid of the danger of war.

VICE PREMIER KIM POK-SIN VISITS HUNGARY

For coverage of the visit of Vice Premier Kim Pok-sin to the Hungarian People's Republic, including reports of the seventh session of the Hungarian-DPRK Economic and Scientific-Technical Consultative Intergovernment Committee meeting, see the Hungary section of the 2 April East European DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TO RECEIVE TAX BENEFITS

SK300625 Seoul YONHAP in English 0612 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP) -- The Korean Government has decided to give financial and tax benefits to firms that make capital investment overseas.

According to an overseas investment promotion plan announced Monday, the government will support overseas equity investments that are conducive to overcoming the growing global protectionist trend, transferring industries with comparatively less advantages and inducing high technologies.

The plan will encourage investments for the establishment of manufacturing firms overseas, the transfer of textile and other industries with less comparative advantages, the acquisition and inducement of high technologies, and the participation of Korean firms in projects in developing countries.

It will also promote investments for gaining business footholds overseas to help Korean firms advance to countries with which Korea does not have diplomatic relations and for buying real estate for business purposes in foreign countries on a selective basis.

In addition, the plan is expected to boost investment-oriented immigration and the overseas operations of small-and medium-sized businesses.

Among the financial and tax benefits that will apply to such overseas investments are a 15-20 percent raise on the ceiling on reserves for losses from overseas investments, extensions of the reserve accumulation and profit calculation periods to five and 10 years, respectively, and the exemption of dividend income from taxes.

Tax benefits will also be applied to royalties received by Korean firms for technological services given to foreign firms, and the export insurance system will be expanded to compensate 100 percent for losses from overseas investments.

As part of the plan, the government will set up an 80 billion-won (94.1 billion-U.S. dollar: one dollar is worth bank and 50 billion won from the overseas economic cooperation fund. The annual interest rate on the fund's overseas investment support loans will be lowered from 10 percent now to 6-7 percent.

The government will gradually allow investments in land and other forms of real estate in foreign countries if the acquisition of the real estate is intended for land re-development, the construction of accommodation facilities for Korean workers overseas or the facilitation of business activities overseas through the purchase of warehouses, offices and sales buildings.

Through the plan, the government intends to eventually liberalize overseas investments made by Korean firms, even in the foreign money market and service sector, including hotels and transportation facilities.

FIRMS DUMPING, TRADING UNFAIRLY TO BE PUNISHED

SK010926 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP) -- The Korean Government will take punitive measures against firms that draw export restrictions abroad due to dumping or other unfair trade practices, a Trade and Industry Ministry official said Wednesday.

Under the plan, the government will suspend the firms' business activities or cancel their business licenses. The same measures will be taken against companies that tarnish Korea's credibility by violating foreign trademark rights or using false certificates.

Firms that receive foreign claims for substandard export goods will face the same punitive measures, Vice Trade and Industry Minister Hong Song-chwa said in a meeting with a group of representatives from leading export agencies.

In view of the worsening global trade climate, exemplified by the ongoing U.S.-Japanese trade conflict over computer chips, the importance of orderly exports cannot be overemphasized, Hong said. He urged the participants to improve the quality of their export products and to develop new products in order to receive fair prices.

The government will also implement administrative guidelines directing companies not to receive orders from abroad beyond their supply capacities. Through these measures, the government will help ease the acute shortage of some major raw materials caused by rising exports, boosted by the continuing appreciation of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar, Hong said.

JAPAN-ROK FISHERY COMMITTEE TALKS END

OW011213 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Seoul, April, 1 KYODO -- South Korea and Japan have agreed to hold a working-level consultation in June to prepare for the signing of a bilateral agreement concerning maritime rescue and other emergencies. The accord came in a three-day annual meeting of the Japan-South Korea Joint Committee on Fishery which ended here Wednesday.

During the 21st annual talks, Japan's chief delegate was Kunio Kimura, deputy director general of the fishery agency, and his South Korean counterpart was Yi Chong-hui, deputy director general of the fishery agency. Both sides also agreed to tighten maritime authorities' patrol against fishing by dragnet vessels within agreed waters. The negotiators agreed to order owners of fishing boats to paint their names and registration numbers clearly. The bilateral committee is being annually held alternately in Seoul and Tokyo on the basis of the Japan-South Korea fishery agreement.

GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT ROK 8-12 APR

SK020225 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP) -- Roberto Carpio Nicolle, vice president of Guatemala, will visit here April 8-12, the Korean Foreign Affairs Ministry announced Thursday. Carpio is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on President Chon Tu-hwan and to hold discussions with Prime Minister No Sin-yong matters of mutual concern, such as the promotion of friendly relations and bilateral cooperation.

While in Seoul Carpio is expected to sign an agreement for bilateral economic and technological cooperation.

Guatemala, which established diplomatic relations with South Korea in 1962, takes a pro-American, anti-communist diplomatic stance and has improved its relations with Eastern European nations through the expansion of trade. It does not have diplomatic ties with North Korea.

DJP WATCHES NDKP FEUD WITHOUT TAKING INITIATIVES

SK020100 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party is anxiously watching the developments in the internal dispute in the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party [NDP] without taking any new initiatives.

Ruling party leaders believe that the 1 month of April will be the most critical period during which it can judge the possibility of realizing a constitutional amendment through bipartisan compromise.

But signs are that the DJP has no choice but to wait and see further developments in the major opposition NDP until it settles its internal dispute over the party leadership change and a strategy on the amendment.

Therefore, the DJP is just intensifying its publicity efforts in order to win more popular support for the party-proposed parliamentary cabinet system, instead of showing a positive stance on the interparty negotiation.

The intensified publicity campaign is also designed to create a social atmosphere for interparty negotiation on the amendment by partisan agreement.

Party secretary general Yi Chun-ku instructed senior secretariat officials of city and provincial chapters to step up their publicity efforts toward local citizens in a meeting yesterday.

Along with such efforts, the DJP is carefully reexamining the details of the parliamentary cabinet system adopted in the party's draft amendment to the Constitution in preparation for full-fledged negotiation with the opposition party.

Senior members of the party's special committee on constitutional amendment will meet today to study possible modification of the draft amendment.

DJP sources said that the reeducation of the powers bestowed upon the premier and the reinforcement of the parliamentary and judiciary powers may be studied.

The party sources said that the DJP may propose setting up a joint committee to negotiate the power structure of the next government on condition that the special House committee to work on constitutional amendment will be resumed.

The sources observed that the ruling party will agree to the holding of a meeting between senior members of the rival parties, if the opposition NDP demands it.

Then the sources add, "The DJP will make party effort to resume substantial negotiations for the constitutional amendment with the opposition party by any means during this month."

SCHEDULE RULES OF LOCAL NKDP RALLIES REVISED

SK010131 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] The Executive Council of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party [NDP] decided yesterday to allow district conventions to be held later than the originally scheduled March thus removing a possible hindrance to holding the national convention in May.

With this as aim, the top decision-making body of the party revised party regulations concerning the schedule of district conventions.

The revised clause provides that district conventions will be held until the day before the national convention of the party. Previously, the regulations specified district conventions to elect delegates to the national convention had to be held during the month of March.

With the revision, which was passed after heated debate between the majority and minority factions of the party, district chapters can now legally hold their conventions during April or later.

Most of the main opposition party's local chapters failed to hold regular conventions because Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam decided not to take part in them.

The two Kims, who are in control of the two largest factions in the NDP, announced the boycott as a means to apply pressure on party president Yi Min-u to correct his position of appeasement with the ruling camp.

While the Executive Council was meeting at the party headquarters, members of minority factions gathered around the party office to protest the two Kims' "disruption" of district conventions.

Earlier in the morning, minority leaders Yi Chol-sung, Sin To-hwan, Cho Yon-ha, and Yi Taek-ton, Yi Tae-hui met at the Plaza Hotel to discuss ways to counter the majority moves to take disciplinary action against Yi Chol-sung.

They decided, however, to wait for the result of the meeting of the Kims and Yi Min-u later in the day before working out countermeasures.

Yi Taek-ton told reporters after the meeting that the minority factions oppose the use of the party's disciplinary committee as a rubber stamp organ to endorse decisions by the majority leaders.

He particularly assailed the eligibility of Rep. Kim Yong-pae to take the post of chief of the disciplinary committee and handle the Yi Chol-sung affair on the grounds that Kim was the man who proposed punishment of Yi Chol-sung during a recent caucus.

"Having the proposer of a severe punishment on Sosok (Yi Chol-sung's pen name) working as the disciplinary committee's chairman, we cannot expect a fair handling of the case," Yi Taek-ton stated.

Originally, Rep. Cho-Sun-hyong was the chairman of the disciplinary committee when the caucus discussed the controversy aroused by Yi Chol-sung's open support for the ruling party-proposed parliamentary cabinet system.

Rep. Cho resigned as the committee chairman after the prosecution demanded jail term for him on charges of instigating students into illegal demonstrations in September, 1985.

Party president Yi Min-u appointed Kim Yong-pae as new disciplinary committee chairman.

Rep. Yi Taek-ton said that the minority members would take the case to court if the party disciplinary committee takes punitive action against Yi Chol-sung "without fair investigation of the motivation, contents, and the results of Rep. Yi's acts" supporting the parliamentary system.

YI MIN-U CALLS FOR EARLY SPECIAL SESSION OPENING

SK020055 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Yi Min-u, president of the New Korea Democratic Party, said yesterday that a special National Assembly session should be convened as early as possible.

The Assembly session should deal with human rights, inter-Korea talks, and international trade friction, Yi said.

"The ruling Democratic Justice Party is delaying the opening of an extra Assembly session by linking it to the operation of the Special Constitution Revision Committee," he claimed.

The DJP has maintained that the special constitution panel should be normalized in parallel with the holding of a special Assembly sitting.

Meanwhile, the NKDP president reiterated his call for a national referendum on a power structure of the next government.

Yi also held that the cabinet and the ruling party should carry out democratization measures promptly, such as releasing political detainees and restoring civil rights for Kim Tae-chung and others.

Asked if he will run for the party presidency in the May national convention, the main opposition party leader said that he will not talk of the matter until the current party feud has been settled.

Yi, however, made it clear that he will not openly declare his support for Kim Yong-sam as next party president saying, "The election of the party president is up to the party members."

The NKDP president added that he will soon announce his position on overall political issues, including the deadlocked interparty debate on constitutional reform, and the NKDP internal dispute, in a news conference. Yi did not specify the date.

'NONMAINSTREAMERS' SEEK TO SUE TWO KIMS FOR LIBEL

SK020045 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Apr 87 p 1-2

[Text] A head-on crash is expected in the opposition New Korea Democratic Party over moves by mainstreamers to discipline two nonmainstreamer lawmakers.

Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, who lead the two largest factions, are calling for an early convocation of the party's Disciplinary Committee in an attempt to take "stern" punitive measures against Reps Yi Chol-sung and Yi Taek-hui.

In response, non mainstreamers are forming an alliance against the two Kims and intensifying an offensive to foil the mainstream groups' move to discipline them.

The two nonmainstreamer lawmakers yesterday said they may mobilize their supporters to obstruct meetings of the committee.

Yi Chol-sung, a leading opponent of the two Kims, has been charged by the mainstreamers with violation of the party's policy of seeking direct presidential elections. The seven-term lawmaker told a news conference in February that he supports the cabinet form of government favored by the ruling party.

A three-term legislator, Yi Taek-hui, Monday demanded a ruling on whether or not Kim Tae-chung's involvement in the NDKP violates laws governing political parties. Kim is banned from politics because of a suspended 20-year prison term for sedition.

A mainstreamer said they will seek to expel Yi Chol-sung unless he makes a "proper explanation of his remarks supporting a cabinet government system and apologizes for them."

In the petition seeking Yi's dismissal, which was already referred officially to the committee, the mainstreamers described Yi's remarks as "obviously harmful to the party and totally contradictory to the party decision favoring a direct presidential election system."

Yi Chol-sung is considering filing a complaint with the committee seeking punishment of the two Kims for "damaging the party's image."

He also plans to boycott the committee on the grounds that its chairman, Rep. Kim Yong-pae, is affiliated with the Kim Tae-chung faction, which has called for stern punitive measures against him.

Yi Chol-sung and other nonmainstreamers demanded that Kim Yong-pae be replaced with another person so as to ensure fairness.

In the meantime, committee chairman Kim said that a full session of the panel would be held tomorrow or the next day. "When the session is held, Yi Chol-sung will be given a chance to make a full explanation of the controversial remarks," he added.

He said the session would be held at the party headquarters and opened to the public.

Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung said that punitive measures should be taken against the two lawmakers "to establish firm discipline among party members."

The mainstream groups are also asking for stern punishment of Yi Taek-hui.

Yi Taek-hui said he may sue the two Kims for libel

"Otherwise, I will file a complaint with the committee," said Yi, who was formerly chief policymaker of the main opposition NKDP.

Mainstreamers, on the other hand, are demanding that party president Yi Min-u take active steps to discipline them.

"Our demand is based on the agreement reached between the two Kims and president Yi Tuesday that Yi discipline them," a mainstreamer explained.

He said that they will seek to discipline them by early this month after observing the attitude of the party president for a few days.

Nonmainstreamers accused the two Kims of "paralyzing" the party by pushing for disciplinary steps against the two nonmainstreamers.

They are scheduled to meet today to discuss specific countermeasures against the mainstreamers' moves to discipline the two.

Some NKDP sources said factional confrontation may make it impossible for the NKDP to resume district chapter reorganization rallies to prepare for their national convention in May. "The national convention may be postponed," they said.

They did not rule out the possibility that the party may be split if the feud becomes more serious.

SNU EXPELS 47 STUDENTS FOR CAMPUS ACTIVISM

SK010123 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Seoul National University [SNU] yesterday expelled 47 students who failed to attend the minimum number of required classes during the second semester of last year. Those expelled are mostly those who were arrested for their involvement in on- and off-campus disturbances, including the riotous seizure of Konguk University late last October.

They are among 63 students who previously had received academic warnings for their failure to attend more than four-fifths of their classes required for the last fall term or for earning lower than a 2.0 out of a maximum 4.3-point grade average.

The remaining 16 students are expected to face similar academic action. Including the 47 students, the number of expelled SNU youths during the last semester increased to 199.

The school authorities previously considered waiving the academic sanctions, an official said, however, the school reversed its original decision after authorities concerned, including the Ministry of Education, made it clear that students who participated in campus violence should be academically disciplined.

YI MIN-U REQUESTS SETTLEMENT BY LAWMAKERS

SK250011 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Yi Min-u, president of the New Korea Democratic Party, yesterday visited National Assembly Speaker Yi Chai-hyong and asked for a political settlement of the issue involving two opposition lawmakers accused of instigating campus unrest.

The prosecution demanded last Thursday three years' imprisonment for Rep. Pak Chan-chong and two and a half years in prison for Rep. Cho Sun-hyong on charges of violating the Law Governing Assemblage and Demonstration.

During the meeting, opposition leader Yi asked that the speaker spearhead effort to settle the issue in a political way. He pointed out that the conviction will virtually put an end to the political life of the two opposition lawmakers.

Alleging that the ongoing trials for Pak and Cho are unfair, Yi said his party will be forced to make a "grave decision" if the two are convicted.

At this, the speaker offered to arrange a meeting between Yi and No Tae-u, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, to help settle the issue.

The DJP, however, reacted negatively to Yi's offer to arrange a meeting between the two rival-party leaders.

"We cannot accept the call for No-Yi talks if they are related to the trial of the two opposition lawmakers. The trial is not a matter to be politically settled," said a DJP official.

According to the National Assembly Law, a legislator will lose his Assembly seat when convicted.

Pak and Cho are accused of instigating a student demonstration at Korea University in September 1985. Sentencing for the two is scheduled to be delivered at a trial tomorrow.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN -- Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP) South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su and Japanese Ambassador to Korea Kiyohisa Mikanagi Saturday signed an official document on 44.63 billion yen (298 million-U.S dollars: one dollar is worth about 150 yen) Japanese loan, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. The Korean Government will use the loan to promote six economic and social development projects, including the construction of the Imha Multipurpose Dam, according to the ministry. Since 1982, Korea has introduced 149 billion yen of the total loans worth 1.85 billion dollars (the two nations agreed that the exchange rate on the loan would vary from year to year), which it plans to borrow from Japan's overseas economic cooperation fund. The government will use this year's loan to carry out its Sixth Five-Year Plan for economic and social development, slated for 1987-91, the ministry said. It will also be used to modernize Korean small- and medium-sized businesses, to mechanize agricultural procedures, to expand educational facilities, to build waste disposal systems and to improve dairy processing facilities. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0634 GMT 28 Mar 87 SK]

UNEN HAILS WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

OW310555 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1432 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 28 Mar (MONTSAME) -- The main political event of the past week was the regular Moscow meeting of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states, says UNEN in an international review.

It notes that the main result of this meeting was the total unity of views of the fraternal socialist countries on the need to continue the joint struggle aimed at complete elimination of nuclear weapons and establishment of a nonnuclear and nonviolent world. The meeting of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states convincingly demonstrated that it is precisely the socialist states that strive to achieve concrete results in this direction. This aspiration was also concretely reflected in the documents adopted by the meeting.

There is a pressing need for the signing of a separate agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe in order to put the solution of topical problems of nuclear disarmament onto a practical level. Also the realization of the proposals put forward on 28 February this year by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, will without a doubt have a positive effect on Soviet-American talks in Geneva, the Vienna meetings, and other international meetings and forums. The results of the Moscow meeting are new proof of the readiness of the fraternal socialist countries for dialogue and cooperation with all forces of wisdom and realism, UNEN notes.

SOVIET HELICOPTERS RESCUE LIVESTOCK IN BLIZZARD

OW242331 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1710 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 24 March (MONTSAME) -- As it has been reported earlier, on 19-20 March a snow hurricane hit a greater part of Mongolia's territory, causing formidable damage to the country's animal husbandry. Particular damage was suffered by livestock-breeding farms located in the steppe zone. There were human casualties in Hentiy and Suhbaatar Aymags (provinces).

The MPRP Central Committee, Presidium of the MPR Great People's Hural and the MPR Council of Ministers expressed deep condolences to the families of victims.

A MONTSAME special correspondent reports from the affected area, that central and local authorities are taking all necessary measures to eliminate the consequences of the natural calamity. Important contribution is being made by local industrial and office workers.

Soviet helicopter crews are taking an active part in rescuing livestock, evacuating herdsmen and in delivering fodder, foodstuffs and other commodities to remote farmsteads.

MOLOMJAMTS DELEGATION LEAVES FOR BUDAPEST

OW260505 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1447 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 25 Mar (MONTSAME) -- A delegation headed by D. Molomjamts, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MPRP Central Committee, left here today for Budapest to study party work experience in accordance with a plan for cooperation between the MPRP and the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES CGDK REPRESENTATION

BK011350 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Apr 87

[1 April statement of the PRK Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[Text] According to foreign news sources, the so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea recently signed in Bangkok with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including China and Thailand, an agreement on the formation of a coordinating committee on the exploration of offshore mineral resources.

The PRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again affirms that the PRK [words indistinct] is the sole authentic legal representative of the Cambodian people. The so-called CGDK is merely a smoke screen for the Pol Pot criminals and other reactionary Khmer groups. They are not entitled to represent the Cambodian people in signing any agreements or any international documents concerning the interests of the Cambodian people. All agreements signed without the approval of the PRK Government are illegal and should be considered null and void.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 1 April 1987

DELEGATION PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO BOLIVIA 15-19 MAR

BK010234 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] A Cambodian delegation led by Comrade Long Visalo, PRK ambassador to Cuba, paid an official visit to the Republic of Bolivia from 15 to 19 March.

At the airport, the Cambodian delegation was welcomed by [name indistinct], director general of the State Protocol Department, and the heads of many diplomatic missions from various friendly socialist countries accredited to Bolivia.

The Cambodian delegation met and held talks in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding with Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez. During the meeting, the Bolivian foreign minister paid particular attention to the Cambodian problem and strongly condemned the Pol Pot regime.

SPK ON THAI VIOLATIONS FOR MONTH ENDING 21 MAR

BK310658 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0409 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Phnom Penh, 31 Mar (SPK) -- Between 21 February and 21 March, Thai L-19's, A-37's, F-5's, OV-10's, and helicopters on 123 occasions fired on and bombed many sectors in Preah Vihear, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Pursat, and Battambang Provinces between 2 and 12 km inside Cambodian territory.

More serious still, Thai A-37's and F-5's on five occasions dropped napalm bombs and fired 20-mm guns on the intersection of the Cambodia-Thailand-Laos border causing loss of human life and property.

On land, Thai artillery fired at least 200 to 300 shells and as many as 2,000 to 6,860 shells daily at Hills 1271, 715, and 971, O Da, Phnum Phchor, Battambang Province, and the 3-border intersection.

At sea, the Thai Navy operated 383 times within 5 to 18 nautical miles of Kaoh Kong, Kaoh Tang, and Poulo Wai Islands.

In the same period, many reactionary Cambodians infiltrated from Thai territory to carry out sabotage activities. Cambodian border guards, in cooperation with Vietnamese volunteers, put 950 of them out of action and seized 505 weapons and a quantity of war materiel.

MORE RETURN TO SIEM REAP-ODDAR MEANCHEY

BK011215 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1114 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 1 -- In the first quarter of this year, 337 people intoxicated by the enemy propaganda came over to the revolution in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, 30 km northwest of Phnom Penh, bringing along 285 assorted guns and a quantity of ammunition.

They included 141 ex-Pol Potists, 101 ex-Sereikas (Sonsannians) and 95 ex-Moulinakas (Sihanoukists). Most of them came in groups from three to seven.

TWO SOVIET ADVISERS KILLED IN SIEM REAP ATTACK

BK020306 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 1 Apr 87

[From the "Daily Report From Various Battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] Siem Reap battlefield: On 20 March, our National Army fired an 107-mm rocket into the 479th headquarters in Siem Reap town, killing two Soviet advisers living there. On the same day, our National Army fired two 107-mm rockets into a Vietnamese position in Siem Reap town, killing six Vietnamese soldiers and wounding some others. After our shelling, the Vietnamese in Siem Reap town were in great panic.

North Sisophon battlefield: On 21 March, our National Army in cooperation with the local people and patriotic Cambodian soldiers launched a three-pronged attack against Thmar Puok District seat in Battambang Province located at Svay Chek township. The first prong attacked the Thmar Puok District seat, the second prong attacked the Vietnamese guarding the prison, and the third prong attacked the Vietnamese commune administration in Svay Chek commune. After 20 minutes of fighting, we totally liberated the three fronts. We killed 10 Vietnamese, including 2 district supervisors, and wounded 19 others. We destroyed 2 B-40's, 1 RPG, 3 AK's, 1 pistol, 1 cloth store house containing 1,000 rolls of cloth, 1 salt storehouse containing 200 sacks of salt, 1 rice storehouse containing 100 sacks of rice, 1 commune office, 1 military truck, 2 barrels of gasoline, and some war materiel. We seized 1 AK, 2 SKS guns, 1 carbine, 100 rolls of cloth, and some war materiel and liberated seven villages, namely Treng, Trayoeung, Roluos, Ta Ong Khang Lech, Ta Ong Khang Kaeut, Tonsay Khang, Cheung, and Tonsay Khang Tbong. We freed and sent home 35 inhabitants jailed by the Vietnamese enemy.

On 23 March, our National Army, in cooperation with the local inhabitants and patriotic Cambodian soldiers, attacked Thmar Puok township in Thmar Puok District of Battambang Province. We killed two Vietnamese and wounded three others. We destroyed three commune office buildings, eight barracks, and some war materiel and liberated 10 villages, namely Anlung Khlong, Kandaol, Neak Ta, Vat Chas, Svay, Komru, Kouk Tbeng, Kouk Phnum, Ta Sot, and Trayoeung.

On 22 March, our National Army fired cannon shells into a Vietnamese artillery position at Trapeang Trom on north Sisophon battlefield. We killed two Vietnamese soldiers, wounded five others, and destroyed one armored car, one truck, and three 122-mm and 130-mm cannons. On 28 March, our National Army attacked the Vietnamese at Sras Chhuk, killing one and wounding two.

On 22 and 25 March, our National Army launched infantry attacks against the Vietnamese at Chan Krakam position on nine occasions and fired artillery shells into the Vietnamese tank position and the Trapeang Kbal Khla, Chan Kraham, Trapeang Trang, and Trapeang Trakuon positions; the Vietnamese soldiers hit seven land mines and a Vietnamese troop convoy ran over our land mines. As a result of these 14 attacks at these 6 places and the mine explosions, 56 Vietnamese soldiers, including a battalion commander, were killed and 68 others were wounded. We destroyed 1 armored car, 2 trucks, and 24 assorted weapons. We freed and sent home 250 inhabitants who were recruited under the K-5 plan and 50 fraternal Cambodian soldiers.

On 23 March, our National Army ambushed a Vietnamese regiment at Stoeng Kambot, Mongkolborei District, Battambang Province. We killed seven Vietnamese soldiers, wounded five others, and destroyed two B-40s and three AKs. The Vietnamese soldiers mistakenly fired at each other during the combat, suffering 13 killed and 8 wounded.

On 19 March, our National Army ambushed a Vietnamese troop truck east of Boeng Khleang along the bank of Mongkolborei River, setting the truck ablaze, killing 19 Vietnamese soldiers, including a regiment commander and a battalion commander, wounding 7 others, and destroying one B-40, two RPGs, seven AKs, three pistols, and some war materiel. [passage omitted]

VODK REVIEWS DK FORCES' DRY-SEASON ACTIVITIES

BK010259 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Station commentary: "During the Past 6 Months in the Current 9th Dry Season, Our National Army and People on All Battlefields Throughout the Country Have Actively Held Aloft the Combat Banner in the Struggle Against the Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors"]

[Text] The end of the 9th dry season is drawing near. April is the last month of the dry season.

During the past 6 months of the current dry season, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have failed to launch any major operations against us. Moreover, they have come to a total impasse and have lost the initiative in the fight. As for us, during the past 6 months we have actively implemented our five attack tactics and have vigorously attacked the Vietnamese enemy aggressors on all battlefields throughout the country in accordance with our targets and plans, thus causing the military situation on the battlefield to develop in a way more favorable to us.

In the strategic areas around the Tonle Sap Lake, the Vietnamese position is being weakened and shattered. We have repeatedly attacked and dismantled the Vietnamese village and commune administrations in these areas and strengthened and expanded our controlled zone more firmly and broadly, thus creating more facilities for our offensive against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. The Vietnamese enemy aggressors are now huddling in only a number of townships, district towns, and cities. However, these areas have also been repeatedly attacked by our forces. For example, Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, and Battambang cities, which are the most important cities in the region around the Tonle Sap Lake, were surrounded and attacked frequently by our forces throughout the current dry season.

In the areas around Phnom Penh City, our National Army and people have vigorously attacked the Vietnamese enemy aggressors from the north, south, west, and east, putting Phnom Penh city under pressure from all directions. We also more frequently launched actions against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors inside Phnom Penh city itself. From December to March, we attacked the Vietnamese enemy in Phnom Penh City on 20 occasions, thus causing constant chaos and insecurity in the city.

Along the border areas, our National Army frequently launched activities to cause losses to the Vietnamese in accordance with our seven attack tactics. We cleared out or destroyed a number of important strategic positions of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and successfully defended our transport routes.

In other areas, such as in Kampot, Kompong Speu, Takeo, Kompong Cham, Sung Treng, and Kratie Provinces and the region on the east bank of the Mekong River, the sound of gunfire in the struggle launched by our National Army and people against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors could be heard loudly and regularly throughout the past 6 months, thus causing great panic to the Vietnamese enemy aggressors.

Therefore, during the past 6 months in this 9th dry season, our National Army and people have held aloft the combat banner and fought vigorously against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors in accordance with our targets and plans. Everywhere, in the areas around the Tonle Sap Lake, around Phnom Penh, along the border, and elsewhere throughout the country, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors could not withstand us. When they tried to close a hole in one area, they always left a space in another area where we could attack them. They were very confused and lost the initiative and mastery on the battlefield. This clearly shows that the Vietnamese enemy aggressors will never be able to extricate themselves from their impasse on the Cambodian battlefield. On the contrary, they will be bogged down even more seriously, sink even more deeply, and eventually be completely doomed.

Our National Army and people on all battlefields throughout the country will fight more vigorously against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors in the month of April to end the current 9th dry season with total victory and advance toward strangling the Vietnamese enemy even more vigorously in the 9th rainy season and coming seasons until the Vietnamese are compelled to settle the Cambodian problem in accordance with the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal by withdrawing all of their aggressor troops from Cambodia, thus allowing the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny in accordance with the eight UN resolutions.

JOURNALISTS HAIL RECENT SHEVARDNADZE VISIT

BK311223 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Vientiane, March 27 (KPL) -- Lao and Soviet media men at a get-together held here last Wednesday highly valued the recent visit to Laos by Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU CC and foreign minister of the USSR. This get-together was jointly organized by the Lao Journalists Association [LJA] and the Soviet Cultural Center here.

The participants in the meeting hailed E. Shevardnadze's visit as of great significance for the cooperation between the two countries. They supported Laos' and the USSR's determination to join hands with other socialist countries and the peace-loving forces in the struggle against nuclear war and for arms-reduction and world peace.

The participants discussed ways and means to professionally co-operate in informing the public of the achievements in national construction in their respective countries, with emphasis on the preparation for the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. Among those present at the meeting were Thongsavat Yamani, vice-chairman of the State Committee for News Agency, Newspaper, Radio and TV and also acting president of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association, and Chanthon Thiangthepvongsa, vice-president of the LJA. Soviet Ambassador Yuriy Mikheyev was also present.

COMMENTARY ON STATE OF RELATIONS WITH THAILAND

BK010240 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Lao-Thai Fraternal Relations Will Be Improved Only After Fundamental Problems Are Resolved"]

[Text] The improvement of fraternal, neighborly relations between Laos and Thailand is currently an issue of interest to the general public. Such an improvement is what the Lao and Thai peoples long for in their desire to coexist peacefully, exchange visits, and assist each other on the basis of the principles of equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, as stipulated in the joint communiques signed by the prime ministers of the two countries in 1979.

However, in recent years the two peoples' common aspiration has not been appropriately fulfilled, because the fundamental problem obstructing the improvement of the bilateral relations has not been resolved.

While the two sides are trying to seek ways to reach a settlement, some individuals and groups of bad people in Thailand have sent their henchmen to Laos to spy on, conduct intelligence activities, and sabotage the Lao people's tranquillity and happiness. Indisputable evidence of the fact is the recent trial and punishment by the people's court in Vientiane of three henchmen of the CIA and bad elements in Thailand -- Lao nationals Ounheuan Silimongkhon and Manivong Keovisai and Thai national Prayut Phothiwong. The three defendants confessed clearly and in detail their espionage and sabotage activities against the Lao revolution under the command of the CIA and the bad elements in the Thai side's organizations. These three persons were sent to Laos from Thai soil -- from where they were given training and instructions by Thai people on the art of spying and espionage.

Meanwhile, the Thai side has organized the celebration of the so-called Thao Suranari, or Mrs Mo, an act reemphasizing history without taking into consideration that it will affect the honor and prestige of an independent and sovereign country. None of this does anything at all to promote Lao-Thai relations.

As for the Lao people, after freeing themselves from the U.S. war of destruction and after establishing the new regime, the Lao Government and people, faced with socioeconomic difficulties and with the consequences of the old regime, have tried their best to ensure tranquility in their country so that the people can make a living and build a new, happy life. Today, there remain many difficult problems. For this reason, Laos always wants peace in the country to enable its people to have a chance to improve their living conditions after going through a destructive war for 30 years. It never harbors ill intentions toward its neighbors, since this will only cause new difficulties for itself.

For this reason, the LPDR has set forth a foreign policy of peace, friendship, and socialism and wants to be friendly with all countries that have good intentions toward Laos.

Toward Thailand, their neighbor, the Lao people always cherish the fraternal, friendly relations that once existed so that they will be promoted and developed continuously. At the same time, the Lao people do not want the unfriendly actions taken by the Thai authorities, who have nurtured the exiled Lao refugees and sent them back to sabotage the Lao people's tranquillity and happiness. Clearly, efforts by the Lao and Thai governments to arrange meetings at any level to correct and improve bilateral relations are welcomed by the Lao as well as the Thai peoples.

However, it is regrettable that the meetings held between Lao and Thai officials to seek ways to reach a settlement on the normalization of Lao-Thai relations have not been smooth. Why? Souban Salitthilat, head of the high-level Lao technical delegation which returned from talks with the Thai side in Bangkok, has explained the results of the talks. He said: Our Lao side has proposed the most fundamental issue for the improvement of the relations between the two countries -- that is, the necessity to resolve the question of the three Lao village which have been seized by Thai troops for nearly 3 years now. All Thai troops must withdraw from Lao territory and must return the situation to normal as it existed before 6 June 1984. Moreover, they must stop nurturing the exiled Lao reactionaries so that they can oppose the LPDR. These are the problems that must be resolved first, because they directly concern the principles of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Once these problems are resolved, other problems, such as the improvement of trade relations, will automatically be resolved.

The Thai side, however, does not regard the above as an important problem, but maintains that trade relations and the exchange of visits are important issues.

The two sides' differing standpoints show who has good intentions about improving Lao-Thai relations. These relations must be relations that truly guarantee the two countries' independence and sovereignty. So, as long as the Thai side continues to persist in its current position and to feed, train, and instruct spies and agents to oppose the LPDR, it is certain that Lao-Thai relations will remain in a sad and gloomy situation. The peaceful coexistence and fraternal and neighborly relations sought by the Thai and Lao peoples will be clouded with gloom and anger as well.

SPOKESMAN DENIES LAO SPYING CHARGE

BK020118 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 87 p 5

[Excerpt] The army yesterday categorically denied that the 19-year-old man sentenced to 15 years in prison in Laos last week was a Thai soldier sent on an espionage mission as claimed by the KPL, the official Laotian news agency.

Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut, the army spokesman, said that no one under 21 serves in the Thai armed forces.

The KPL identified the convict as Pvt Prayut Phothiwong from Saraburi Province. Prayut was arrested in Laos last June and charged with espionage, it said.

Maj Gen Narudon said that neither the army administration in Saraburi nor the cavalry centre there had the name on their lists.

"We have carefully checked the Laotian claim and found it to be untrue. We hereby deny it completely," the army spokesman told reporters.

He also said no definite timetable has been set for the visit of the army commander-in-chief to Laos.

Moreover, the army chief will also have to consult with the Foreign Ministry before making a decision on the visit, the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

TWENTY HMONG REFUGEES RETURNED TO LAOS

BK010145 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Apr 87 p 6

[Text] Loei -- Thai authorities on Monday sent back 20 Hmong refugees who were smuggled into Thailand by a group of Thais who clashed with police here two days earlier.

Police said they were also trying to locate another 50 Hmongs who were hiding in a jungle after the armed clash late Saturday night in Pakchom District.

A Thai, later identified as Chao Nuda, 32, was wounded in the clash, the police said. Chao was accused of running a racket to smuggle Hmong refugees from Laos into Thailand.

The police said Chao was one of the three Thais who were leading this group of 70 Hmong refugees. The other two Thais fled with the rest of 50 Hmong refugees who were still at large yesterday.

The police said they had received a tip-off that a large group of Hmong refugees would be smuggled into Ban Winai refugee camp in Pakchom District and sent out a unit of policemen and defence volunteers to intercept them.

The police unit, led by chief of Pakchom District police station Pol Lt Col Srichan Homtaen, encountered the three Thais and the Hmongs in a jungle between Ban Huai Phichai in Tambon Huai Phichai and Ban Pakchom of Tambon Pakchom of the same district. The spot was about 10 km northeast of Ban Winai camp.

The Thais, who were armed with carbineas, refused to surrender and reportedly opened fire at the policemen who returned fire, injuring one of them.

The wounded suspect was quoted as admitting that each of the Hmong refugees paid an equivalent of 4,000 baht to be smuggled into Thailand from Laos.

On Monday morning, the policemen found 20 of the Hmong refugees who were rounded up and returned to Laotian soldiers across the Mekong River.

An official report shows that since March 15, about 150 Hmong refugees have been sent back to Laos by Thai authorities.

An informed source told THE NATION that about 500 families of Hmong are waiting opposite Pakchom District to cross the Mekong River into Thailand. He said the Hmongs hoped to be resettled in third countries by sneaking into Ban Winai refugee camp.

The repatriation of the Hmong refugees has been criticized by US government officials who said it was carried out forcibly.

Thailand has a policy not to give asylum to any more Hmong refugees because it believes they leave Laos for economic reasons.

SPOKESMAN CITES PREM ON FISHERMEN, COALITION UNITY

BK010527 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Excerpt] A weekly cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, was held yesterday at Government House. Here is Deputy Government Spokesman Dr Montri Chenwitthayakan to give a briefing on the many issues discussed at the meeting.

[Begin Montri recording] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon presided over the weekly cabinet meeting which discussed a number of important issues.

One of the issues raised by General Prem just before taking up topics in the agenda was the problem of Thai fishermen arrested by Malaysian authorities with their trawlers seized. The prime minister said that Malaysia has already released some of the fishermen and the Thai Government would ask that country to release all the rest. He said that the government has great concern over the plight of Thai fishermen and has tried in every possible way through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to help them.

Gen Prem also told the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to study the possibilities of asking Malaysian authorities to settle any disputes concerning arrested fishermen without taking them to court. He said Thai fishermen standing trial face language difficulties and other troubles. The quick trial also does not give Thai authorities enough time to provide necessary legal assistance to the fishermen. He also suggested that to solve the problem Thai and Malaysian authorities should cooperate in joint patrol of the seas, either by using the Navy or the Marine Police.

The other issue which is political which the prime minister raised at the cabinet meeting was the stand of the government coalition parties in parliament which is scheduled to open tomorrow. Gen Prem told the ministers if they have done their best in performing their duties, they should not worry about facing tough questioning from parliament, and what he wanted to see, said the prime minister, is unity among the coalition parties. The fact that there will be two sessions of parliament this year for the first time, and the second one to open in October, the government parties should unite to push through all the major legislations which are now clustered in the backlog in parliament if these legislations are really beneficial to the people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR ON SEIZURE OF TRAWLERS

BK010207 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[By Richard Read]

[Text] Malaysia will investigate allegations of physical intimidation surrounding recent seizures of Thai trawlers, but arrests of fishermen are likely to continue, the Malaysian ambassador to Thailand told THE NATION yesterday.

Ambassador Bakri Aiyub Ghazali said this month's seizures, which triggered protests by thousands of fishermen in southern Thailand, also might be discussed today by the Malaysian Cabinet.

But Ghazali predicted during an interview that his country would continue capturing Thai vessels thought to be trespassing in its territory.

"When they come to our waters, we have to do it; not only to Thais, but to any foreign vessels," Ghazali said.

The diplomat said, however, that Malaysian officials would investigate allegations by the Thai Government that authorities ransacked trawlers and subsequently threatened and assaulted the Thai crews to make confess to fishing inside the Malaysian boundary.

"There is an allegation, therefore we have to investigate it," Ghazali said. "As you know, these are uniformed people; they shouldn't do this kind of thing. I don't think our leaders would tolerate that."

His remarks coincided with a statement by the Malaysian Foreign Ministry in Kuala Lumpur yesterday which said the ministry was looking into the matter.

Ghazali made his comments during an interview that followed a public address in Bangkok. His speech was another in the "Meet the Ambassador" series sponsored by the International Understanding Programme of Chulalongkon University's Institute of Asian Studies.

The question-and-answer session following Ghazali's address was far more lively than others in the series, as reporters and other in the audience grilled the ambassador on fisheries issues and other controversial matters.

Ghazali said that he had forwarded Thailand's memorandum concerning the seizure of four trawlers to Kuala Lumpur soon after receiving the document last Friday.

"That very evening, I transmitted the request of the Thai Government to my ministry," he said. "So we are awaiting a decision. And I have recommended that they should look into the matter as quickly as possible in view of our close relationship."

Surin Pitsuwan (Dem-Nakhon Si Thammarat), who was among those in the audience yesterday, asked Ghazali to explain the political atmosphere behind the seizures.

"All I know is that we are more vigilant than ever before," Ghazali said. "We have more craft now to patrol the sea. Their job is not only to look into the question of illegal fishing, but it's more of arms smuggling, drug smuggling and piracy."

In the subsequent interview with THE NATION, Ghazali endorsed the proposal of Agriculture Minister Han Linanon for joint Thai-Malaysian patrols in disputed waters to prevent alleged violations.

"We would like that," Ghazali said. "I would perhaps help us to resolve the policy problems as well. I think our government would be receptive to this."

The envoy said that, contrary to recent statements, Malaysia does have a law providing for "innocent passage" of ships through its waters. He released excerpts of the 1985 statute to THE NATION.

The document said foreign fishing vessels are allowed to sail through Malaysian territory on their way elsewhere, providing certain conditions are met pertaining to notification of authorities and stowage of fishing gear. A letter sent by Foreign Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila to his Malaysian counterpart claims, among other things, that some of the intercepted trawlers were not fishing when the seizures occurred.

Ghazali also released excerpts of Malaysian legal provisions relating to fines and vessel forfeiture. He said his country was soft on captured Thai fishermen.

"We are very lenient with them," he said in the interview. "Because being neighbours, we do not use the maximum limits of the penalties."

During his speech, Ghazali stressed positive aspects of Thai-Malaysian bilateral relations, specifically mentioning fisheries only in the context of proposed joint venture in deep-sea fishing. Questioned subsequently by Surin concerning the progress of joint-venture negotiations, Ghazali was optimistic.

"I hope the agreement could be sorted out soon," he said. "This would give more opportunity to Thai fishermen to fish in our exclusive economic zone [EEZ]."

The zones, known as EEZs, were created in 1982 with passage of the International Law of the Sea. The EEZs give nations fishing rights up to 200 nautical miles from their shores; but some of the areas overlap, creating jurisdictional conflicts.

"From what I understand, Thailand has the (world's) fifth largest fishing fleet," Ghazali said. "So what Malaysia can offer is nothing very much."

"Thailand may have to have an agreement with other countries in fisheries."

But he said a joint-venture agreement would benefit both Malaysia and Thailand.

"In a venture of this nature, with the assistance of Thailand's technical know-how, the marine resources in our EEZ can be exploited for the benefit of both countries," Ghazali said.

Meanwhile in northern Malaysia, BERNAMA national news agency was quoting unnamed sources who denied any of the roughly 200 fishermen arrested during the recent seizures had been forced to confess. The sources, who were presumably government officials, also said the Thai fishermen were clearly fishing within Malaysia's EEZ.

Ghazali made an oblique reference during his speech to the escalating disagreement.

"We must guard against the danger of making public statements which might arouse unnecessary concern and suspicion between our peoples," he said. "In any relationship, just like amongst brothers, there is bound to be disturbing issues which appear from time to time. But given the abundance of good will prevailing, there is no reason why they cannot be resolved amicably through the appropriate channels."

Ghazali, who joined his country's foreign service in 1963, was Malaysia's ambassador to Canada before taking the post in Thailand last June. He has served abroad in Bonn, Moscow, Tokyo and London.

In his address, Ghazali stressed cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand on various fronts, including the fight against communists on the common border. He said members of the Communist Party of Malaya would not "go to the gallows" if they surrendered under amnesty procedures.

MALAYSIA RELEASES TWO SEIZED THAI FISHING BOATS

BK020524 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry said Malaysia has released two of the six Thai fishing boats it had seized last month for trespassing. The ministry said the trawlers -- Charoenkit 2 and Chok Charoennawa -- were released on Tuesday and it was awaiting word from Malaysia about the remaining four. The Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has been told to follow up the case and secure the release of the boats and the detained fishermen.

Meanwhile, some 2,000 protesting fishermen in Pattani Province ended their 5-day peaceful rally against Malaysian seizure of Thai trawlers and urged the government to settle fishing conflicts with Malaysia permanently.

PAPER HAILS AMERICAN SCIENTIST'S HUNGER STRIKE

BK010823 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Mar 87

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 31 March commentary: "Hyde's Flame"]

[Text] There have been people whose extraordinary action could attract and gather a large force. There have been people whose heartbeat had the dynamism to instill more strength into the hearts of millions of other people, and whose deaths generated life. Such a man is appearing in the middle of Washington, the capital of the United States, a country that has been a major threat to international peace and security for nearly half a century now, and a place where dark clouds of a nuclear danger are looming. Such a man is Hyde, a doctor of astronomy, 56 years old, the father of five children, and the author of more than 20 scientific projects.

This man can be said to have thought, like millions of other people, that all projects and all inventions would become meaningless if ever someone pushed the button to activate the network of nuclear weapons. This man has boldly decided to sacrifice everything, even his own life, to compel other people to think more scrupulously and more correctly for the sake of peace. Because of the incomparable disaster of a nuclear holocaust, he has taken action.

For 200 days now, he has been on a hunger strike in front of the White House, silent as a statue, oblivious to the scorching sun, crushing rain, and freezing snow. By this unlimited hunger strike, a silent and fierce ordeal, Dr Hyde is manifesting frankness in the highest degree, demanding that the Reagan administration take specific steps toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Hyde's health is gradually declining. After 200 days of living on warm salted water, Hyde has lost 50 kilos. The life of this talented scientist is being threatened with every passing day.

People of conscience all over the world feel pain when they realize that such a noble person is silently facing death. They cannot help wondering what President Reagan thinks when he sees Hyde every day from the windows of the White House. Does the top U.S. leader think that Hyde's action is one of a normal person or just that of a stubborn and stupid protester? Perhaps the U.S. President does not have much time to think about Hyde because he is busy planning the deployment of MX missiles and seeking the means to bring pressure to bear on the Congress to pass the colossal military budget for the 1988-89 fiscal year -- including an appropriation of \$6,282 billion for the Star Wars program -- or calling for the protection of human rights, a theme that is usually employed by Washington to tarnish the reputation of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The Reagan administration is solely responsible for Hyde's life.

Although Hyde is all by himself on a hunger strike in front of the White House, millions of people in the United States and other countries throughout the world are focussing their attention on him. While the health of the American scientist is gradually deteriorating, his morale is being strengthened by hundreds of letters sent in daily from all parts of the world to express admiration for and solidarity with him and demand that action be taken by the Reagan administration to save his life. A mailbox was set up in Moscow in solidarity with Hyde on 24 March. Many students, workers, housewives, and war veterans have gathered in front of this mailbox to pray for him or voice support for his struggle.

In the current struggle for peace and against nuclear war, Hyde has emerged as a banner and a beautiful and bright symbol. It is this scientist who is adding additional strength to the peace movement and encouraging millions of people to voluntarily join the ranks of peace fighters.

Hyde may die as a result of the Reagan clique's reactionary and warlike policy. However, his death, if it happened, would certainly spark off a wave of protest against Washington in the United States as well as throughout the world.

Twenty years ago, the Vietnamese people and the people of the whole world were deeply moved by the self-immolation of Morison in Washington in protest of the brutal U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam. We are now again deeply moved by the courageous act of Professor Hyde. The American people are great. There have always emerged among the American people genuine social activists who oppose the reactionary ruling clique.

Hyde's heart has become a great flame, like the Morison torch two decades ago, shedding more light on the road of peace in the nuclear-space era.

ANGOLAN PRESIDENT TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SRV

OW011739 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1 -- A party and state delegation of the People's Republic of Angola led by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Workers' Party, president of the republic and chairman of the People's Assembly, will pay an official visit to Vietnam soon.

The visit is made at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the National Assembly, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, said a communique released here today by the Foreign Ministry.

RADIO REPORTS 'MALTREATMENT' OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

BK010430 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 87

["Events and Opinions" feature]

[Text] Many foreign reports say that 250,000 Kampuchean refugees along the Thai border are being bullied and threatened by Kampuchean hooligans. They are living under the brutal rule of the Khmer Rouge's talons and sometimes they are maltreated by their so-called Thai protectors.

A report of American lawyers denounced the Khmer Rouge for continuing to strictly control the lives of 59,000 refugees in Thailand. Several Khmer Rouge leaders who had ordered the mass killings in the 70's are now jointly controlling these groups of Kampucheans. International aid officials also speak about the Khmer Rouge's use of violence against and control of the refugees. A U.S. Government report on the question of human rights in the world in 1986 quoted Kampuchean refugees who had fled from the Khmer Rouge as saying that several Kampuchean refugees were executed in their camps for having got married without permission [of] the Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot and his accomplices.

Another document of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York make public this month said that groups of armed bandits had attacked the refugee camps at night to loot property, rape women refugees, and kill Kampuchean refugees as well as Thai people in their hamlets. The report said: Another threat to the Kampuchean refugees is the semiregular army units sent by the Thai Government to guard the refugees who fled to Thailand in late 1970 and now are living in a dozen camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border. The report further said while several soldiers were standing guard, other guards, beat, raped, and even killed Kampuchean refugees.

About 29,000 Kampucheans living in four camps under Khmer Rouge control are being threatened with the cut-off of food and medical supplies from the United Nations. The Khmer Rouge often prevented western aid officials' visits to these refugee camps. A UN official said: The Khmer Rouge do not want foreigners to talk with their men. International aid officials said that the Thai Army had entered these camps but they did not interfere to reduce the brutal actions of the Khmer Rouge.

Thailand is the main supporter of the tripartite coalition consisting of the Khmer Rouge, the Kampuchean People National Liberation Front which is loyal to its leader Sihanouk, and the faction led by Son Sann.

The transfer of refugees from Camp No 8 to Na Trao Camp, one of the four camps controlled by the Khmer Rouge, has worried officials of the UN Border Relief Organization. Na Trao Camp is under the control of Ta Mok who is notorious for conducting a series of purges and massacres under the Khmer Rouge regime. A western relief official said: Any refugee who dares to violate the rule of the Khmer Rouge would be reported as missing; anyone who dares to complain or beg to be transferred to another camp not under the Khmer Rouge's control would be punished.

MORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

BK011508 [Editorial Report] Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese at 1100 GMT on 1 April carries a 25-minute list of candidates running for election to the Eighth National Assembly. The report says:

Hai Hung Province has a total of 32 candidates. Among them are: "Hoang Van Ha, Kim Mon District party committee member, director of the Kim Mon District agricultural engineering enterprise, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Dao Xuan Mien, deputy head of the party Central Committee Internal Affairs Department"; "Vu Tuan, Minister of Light Industry and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Tran Thi Xuan Dao, party committee member, deputy head of the Hai Hung Provincial Irrigation Office, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Vu Tuyen Hoang, member of the CPV Central Committee and director of the Grain and Food Crops Institute"; "Vu Oanh, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee Economic Department"; Pham Hung [Pham Huong] alias Bui Van Tuong, member of the CPV Central Committee, chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Phan Thi Ngoan, party committee standing body member, head of the Lien Khe agricultural cooperative, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Tran Van Phac, member of the CPV Central Committee and minister of culture."

Thanh Hoa Province has a total of 36 candidates. Among them are: "Pham Thu, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee, major general, director of the Military Technology Institute"; "Bui Khac Tien, party committee member, director of the Song Chu engineering factory, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Nguyen Dinh Tu, member of the CPV Central Committee, director of the National Atomic Energy Institute, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly" Dinh Nho Liem, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice minister of foreign affairs."

"Dang Thi, member of the CPV Central Committee, minister, chairman of the Committee for Economic and Cultural Cooperation with Laos and Cambodia, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Dong Sy Nguyen, CPV Central Committee Political Bureau member, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly."

Tay Ninh Province has a total of 10 candidates, none of them prominent party or state officials.

Nghia Binh Province has a total of 30 candidates. Among them are: "To Dinh Co, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee, chairman of the provincial people's committee, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Nguyen Xuan Huu, member of the CPV Central Committee, head of the committee for organizing the Vietnam Collective Peasants Congress, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Dinh Thoang, member of the provincial party committee standing body, chairman of the provincial nationality committee, of Ba-na ethnic group, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Dang Huu, member of the CPV Central Committee, Master of Science and Technology, chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission"; "Tran Duc Luong, member of the CPV Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Tran Van An, director general of the General Meteorological and Hydrological Department and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Tran Thi Hoa, party chapter secretary, deputy director of the provincial seed corporation, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly."

Hoang Lien Son Province has a total of 12 candidates. Among them is:

"Vu Lap, member of the CPV Central Committee, colonel general, commander of the 2d Military Region, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly, of the Tay ethnic group."

Minh Hai Province has a total of 16 candidates. Among them are: "Lam Nuoi, head of the Khmer Proselyting Sub-Committee and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Nguyen Thi Hong Minh, alternate member of the provincial party committee, deputy director of the Ca Mau refrigeration plant, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly"; "Pham Van Duong, secretary of the party committee, colonel, deputy commander of the provincial military command, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly."

NGUYEN VAN LINH, OTHER CANDIDATES MEET VOTERS

BK310917 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Mar 87

[By radio correspondent Kim Cuc -- with portions recorded]

[Summary From Poor Reception] At present, Hanoi is holding meetings between candidates in the National Assembly election and the voters.

"This morning at the guesthouse of the President Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, there was a cordial meeting between six candidates in the Eighth National Assembly election, among them Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, and representatives of the voters in Ba Dinh and Hoan Kiem wards. The meeting proceeded in a sincere, cozy, and candid atmosphere.

"Before the meeting began, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh cordially chatted in the frontyard of the mausoleum's guesthouse with voters' representatives. He asked Ms (Nghiem Thi Liem) of the General Department Store about the prices of some articles and about any difficulties and problems in the store's current business activities.

He said: At present, trade is very important. This is a burning front in the field of distribution and circulation. The state-run trade sector must make an effort to become the housekeeper of the people. It must buy from the original sources and sell directly to the customer without many intermediary links and without causing difficulties for the people.

"Turning to Ms (Tong Thi Nhung), a worker of the Sanitation Enterprise in Ba Dinh ward, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh inquired about her work. He then told her that, yesterday morning during his visit to a nephew who worked at a pharmaceutical enterprise in Dong Da ward, he noted that the roads there were too muddy. He asked Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee, who was standing nearby: Why doesn't Hanoi invest in building better roads? Why doesn't it apply the formula 'the state and people work together' to solve this problem?

"Only a few minutes of contact before the meeting enabled the representatives of voters to express their views on some current difficulties in production and life in Hanoi. Their feelings and sentiments were expounded more clearly during their meeting with the six candidates to the National Assembly election, among them Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh."

Two major issues brought up by the voters' representatives at the meeting involved production and the current living conditions of the laboring people and retirees. Workers from various production establishments pointed to the difficulties, including shortages of supplies, raw material, and fuel, currently facing them in production. Several voters' representatives from Ba Dinh and Hoan Kiem wards raised the issue of some benefits in pension, housing, schooling, and so forth that are denied to artisan and handicraft workers. Comrade (Nguyen Dinh Minh) of the Phuong Dong Tailoring Enterprise read a petition on behalf of artisan and handicraft workers:

[Begin (Nguyen Dinh Minh) recording] I would like to propose the following: The state should see to it that workers of the artisan and handicraft sector are allowed to correctly and fully make their contributions just like state workers and enjoy all benefits under the current social security system. This, we believe, will encourage artisan and handicraft workers to continue working, with their minds at rest, until their retirement. [end recording]

In the views of the voters' representatives, the difficulties facing production and the laboring people's life are major issues that must be resolved with the concern and care of the party and state. For instance, not much investment has been made by the state in the Chien Thang Tailoring Enterprise of the Ministry of Light Industry even though this enterprise annually reserves 75 percent of its products for export and 25 percent for domestic consumption; and to ensure production, the enterprise has had to procure supplies on a self-sufficiency basis. Comrade Prof (Nguyen Duy Khac) of the Ministry of Public Health urged the state to provide scientific-technological workers with the conditions for improving the quality of research work. Ms (Nguyen Xuan Thanh), secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Ba Dinh ward, raised the issue of the employment of youths. She said:

[Begin (Nguyen Xuan Thanh) recording] Employment for youths is a very pressing issue at present; but this issue has yet to be resolved correctly with regard to the relationship between obligations and interests. Due to the lack of appropriate policies, youths do not embark in productive labor with enthusiasm and confidence. We suggest that policies be introduced to fully tap the youths' latent capabilities and encourage them to join the production sectors that are needed at present. [end recording]

After hearing voters' views, various candidates running for the national assembly presented their programs of action. Nguyen Qui Hoi, chairman of the Joint Artisan and Handicrafts Cooperative, said:

[Begin Nguyen Qui Hoi recording] We pledge that if elected to the Eighth National Assembly, we will present all of the questions raised by our cooperative members about their legitimate interests to the National Assembly. A very important issue at present is how to satisfactorily resolve the labor issue so that the artisan and handicrafts sector of Hanoi can positively contribute to the fulfillment of the two economic tasks set forth by the Hanoi municipal party organization. And we will also actively propose to the National Assembly the adoption of measures and laws designed to stimulate the development of production. [end recording]

In a cordial and frank atmosphere, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh expressed his views at the meeting. He said:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] As a candidate, I would like first of all to thank the Election Steering Committee for including me in the namelist of candidates from Ba Dinh and Hoan Kiem wards. [applause]

"This morning, after hearing the comrades representing voters of all social strata, including retirees, in our two municipal wards express their opinions so that we, those who are going to be elected, will later present them to the Eighth National Assembly, I am sure that had we had more time, many other comrades and friends would have also given their suggestions, but they were unable to do so because of lack of time. Nevertheless, this is only the first meeting. We will have many National Assembly sessions afterwards. I think that later on we -- those who will be elected -- no matter how busy we may be -- you must have understood how busy I am as general secretary -- will set aside the time to hear many more of your suggestions, not only those that have been expressed today."

Today, with the limited time at our disposal, I want to tell the voter' representatives that if elected to the National Assembly, I will, instead of simply representing the voters there, present your opinions at the National Assembly. This is the meaning of the National Assembly of a socialist republic, which can be likened to the Soviet of the Union. [applause] [end recording]

NHAN DAN ON IMPORTANCE OF MEETINGS WITH VOTERS

BK020510 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Apr 87

[NHAN DAN 2 April editorial: "Adequately Organize Candidates' Meetings With Voters"]

[Text] Following the introduction of candidates and the gathering of the views of voters at the candidates' working and residential places, the propaganda and motivation campaign concerning the elections to the national assembly and the people's councils is being stepped up in localities to ensure true democracy and compliance with the law. In provinces, cities, and special zones, guidance is being provided under several forms for voters to exchange views with one another, seeking to understand the biographies of candidates. In some localities, candidates have begun to hold cordial meetings with voters.

The meetings of candidates with voters are very important. Through these meetings, the candidates can understand the thoughts and aspirations of voters and the people can also understand the backgrounds of candidates and know about their action programs, abilities, and knowledge which serve as grounds for voters to select candidates whom they trust.

In those localities where these meetings have been adequately organized, an atmosphere of trust and enthusiasm has been created among the people, and voters have realized the first step in renovating the ways of thought and action in the elections. Through these meetings, the masses are encouraged to develop their right to mastery in consolidating and perfecting the administration at all levels and to enthusiastically participate in national construction and defense.

However, the meetings of candidates with voters in some localities have been held merely for the sake of formality and have been looked upon as nothing but administrative procedures. The meetings held for candidates to contact voters in these localities look like mass meetings or cadre conferences. The candidates are invited to sit at the meetings like presidium members to control a conference, while voters are mostly cadres of some positions, and candidates deliver long statements sounding like ready-made speeches for the conference. Such an organizational practice is clearly following the old method, making voters reluctant to express their aspirations or depriving them of time to express their views.

The experiences of some localities that have correctly organized these meetings clearly indicate that meetings for candidates to introduce themselves to and contact voters must be organized adequately and practically to avoid all forms of showing off. The meetings must be really cordial and open. Everyone should realize that the candidates' meetings with voters are only the first step. Other regular meetings must be held later on to create close relations between the candidates and voters in the localities where the candidates stand for elections and to make the activities of the state power agencies really reflect the people's aspirations.

The meetings of candidates with voters must be held smoothly and cordially like a cordial talk among close acquaintances. Besides meeting with many voters at one time, candidates should also devise a form of getting into contact personally with each of the people in their work places even if they have to call on their homes to exchange views.

During the meetings of candidates with voters, workers who are directly engaged in production in primary installations should be invited, so that these workers can express their views on matters of concern in life. Open and cordial dialogue between candidates and voters is a vivid form that bears the most positive results in organizing the meetings this time. It is the responsibility of all party committee echelons and mass organizations, especially the VFF committee at all levels, to adequately organize meetings for candidates to introduce themselves to and get into contact with voters. Candidates are primarily required to firmly grasp the general situation of their electoral units in order to have grounds on which to prepare their action programs and express their views to voters.

In all electoral units, candidates for election to the national assembly and the people's councils must make time to call on and cordially meet with voters of all strata such as workers, peasants, craftsmen, cadres, and civil employees in factories, enterprises, cooperatives, army units, and agencies. Such open and pleasant meetings will righten the relations between the elected delegates and voters and will enhance the responsibility for one another in the process of enhancing the quality and efficiency of the National Assembly and the people's councils at all levels.

HO CHI MINH CITY LIMITS CHECKPOINT SEARCHES

BK290446 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] On 23 March the Ho Chi Minh City public security force issued a directive prohibiting personnel at all checkpoints along roads and railways leading to the city and other key transportation centers in the city, from stopping cars and trains to check goods and luggage. The directive, however, allows public security personnel to fine those who violate communication and transportation safety measures.

The city public security board of directors has asked various professional units to strive to discover and inform the authorities of various law violations and to oppose speculators, smugglers, and illegal traders. They should not conduct searches of suspicious goods without authorization, but should seek permission from the authorized, public security force leading cadres.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUES COPYRIGHT DECREE

BK300514 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] To protect the legitimate spiritual and material interests of authors and to encourage our compatriots to create literary and artistic works as well as scientific and technological innovations, which are aimed at serving the building of socialism, defending the socialist fatherland, improving the people's spiritual life, and building a new culture and new socialist men, on 14 November 1986 the Council of Ministers issued a decree on copyrights of authors.

The decree stipulated regulations for authors to follow, the objectives and benefits of copyrights, the announcement of the publication of literary works and their use, and other regulations aimed at implementing this decree.

To satisfactorily implement this decree, the Ministry of Culture has decided to establish an association for protecting Vietnamese authors' copyrights. It has also made known the purpose of this association to various echelons and discussed with various organizations concerned ways of designing concrete measures to effectively protect the copyrights of Vietnamese authors at home and in foreign countries.

VINH PHU PARTY COMMITTEE CORRECTS SHORTCOMINGS

BK311118 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] In the political indoctrination drive to improve the quality of party members and enhance the party's leadership ability and militancy on the occasion of the party's 57th founding anniversary, the Vinh Phu provincial party committee has reinspected the task of correcting shortcomings following the self-criticism and criticism drive of late 1986. Vinh Phu has recovered 3.8 million dong and will recover another 1.6 million dong for the state from sales of 380 motorcycles at unjustified prices by the Ngoai Trach oil extraction enterprise.

The province has also inspected the settlement of 21,347 cases involving the illegal allocation, occupation, purchase, and sale of land. So far, no villages, cities or towns have been able to settle any case.

The provincial party committee has warned the chairman of the Yen Lap District people's committee against selling construction materials at below official prices; dismissed the deputy head of the provincial vocational training service from office and demanded that he turn in to the state 64,000 dong from the price differential in the purchase of construction materials; removed the deputy head of the provincial price section from the party chapter committee and administrative service and demanded that he turn in to the state 6,000 dong from price differential in the purchase of construction materials; and demanded that the director and deputy director of the provincial communications and transportation service turn in to the state more than 13,000 dong from the price differential in the purchases of materials for the construction of their own houses.

NHAN DAN ON POSSIBLE GRAIN OUTPUT DECLINE

BK010922 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 31 Mar 87

[NHAN DAN 1 April editorial: "Protect and Develop Grain Production"]

[Text] Grain production is a task of primary importance in the Grain and Food Program which, together with other major economic programs, will contribute to stabilizing the national socioeconomic situation. This year's weather has developed in an unusual manner, with the average temperature in winter and the dry season higher than the median rate of past years. Some early rice plantings transplanted with overgrown seedlings have had to be discarded and retransplanted. However, thanks to better supply of materials and the application of technical innovations, the area put under winter-spring rice may almost meet the target and slightly exceed that of last year. The area affected by harmful insects and diseases, especially rice mealy bugs, is rapidly increasing in former Zone 4; and in some areas, the rice plants grew ears after Tet, thus posing a threat on productivity.

Good progress has been made in the cultivation of winter-spring grain and subsidiary food crops, especially corn, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. Winter crops have generally produced a higher yield than previously, and the total output is expected to top 500,000 metric tons in paddy equivalent -- a 4-percent increase over last year. However, when both rice and subsidiary food crops are combined, this year's winter-spring grain output may be less than that of many past years. Protecting winter-spring rice production is now a pressing task. The winter-spring rice is now being harvested in the southern provinces and will blossom en masse in the next few weeks in the north. Productivity will suffer seriously if harmful insects and diseases are allowed to wreak havoc while the rice plants are entering the budding and blossoming stage. Therefore, all localities should insect ricefields, overcome difficulties in the supply of insecticides and chemicals, and mobilize forces and equipment and use a combination of measures for effectively controlling harmful insects and diseases. Experience gained in past crop seasons shows that some localities have effectively controlled harmful insects and diseases by applying various manual methods and bringing traditional experience into play, thus reducing crop losses.

Drought coupled with the lower water level in the various rivers, ponds, and lakes is causing a shortage of water to hundreds of thousands of hectares. Productivity will drop if the rice plants lack water during the budding and blossoming stage. Therefore, along with preventing and controlling harmful insects and diseases, all localities and production establishments should do all they can to maintain the level of water in ricefields, using pumps and buckets for this purpose; but it is necessary to use water thriftily so as to have enough water throughout the season.

Protecting, tending, and rapidly reaping the winter-spring rice is an important task on the agricultural front at present. At the same time, it is necessary to prepare for planting the summer-fall and 10th-month rice crops. Efforts must be made to achieve the highest output during these two production seasons so as to make up for the winter-spring crop season.

Grain production is being carried out in all parts of the country, but each locality has its own strong points regarding production as well as different needs for consumption. Striving to meet the local demand for consumption and, at the same time, moving grain from localities having a surplus to those needing it, is a necessary task that reflects each locality's concern toward the common interests of the country. Right now, intensive guidance must be given to rounding up surplus paddy in the countryside, first of all in the Mekong Delta, and satisfactorily regulating the supply of grain in order to meet the entire society's demand for consumption.

BRIEFS

YOUNG LABOR VOLUNTEERS ANNIVERSARY -- Hanoi VNA 1 Apr -- Five hundred cadres and members of the Young Labour Volunteer Force of Ho Chi Minh City has met at a ceremony to celebrate its 11th founding anniversary (March 28). The 10,000-strong Young Labour Volunteer Force is managing more than 40,000 hectares of rubber, 14 agricultural and forestry state farms, and 6 factories. These farms and factories are located in many southern provinces. Besides, the force is in charge of five labour education schools where former drug addicts, prostitutes, and other victims of social vices are taking part in labour work to start a new healthy life. In the past 11 years, the force has supplied the city with many experienced cadres who have emerged from the labour movement. Among its members, 250 have been admitted to the Communist Party of Vietnam, and 200 others are working in foreign countries under labour cooperation programmes. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0723 GMT 1 Apr 87 OW]

TAY NINH PEAT BOG -- Hanoi VNA 1 Apr -- An open-cast peat bog in Ben Cau District in the southern province of Tay Ninh has been put into operation with an estimated productivity of 20,000 tons of peat yearly. The peat will mainly go to local building-material and fertilizer factories. According to preliminary surveys, Vietnam has 200 peat bogs, 30 of which are under exploitation each yielding tens of thousands of tons a year. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0731 GMT 1 Apr 87 OW]

INDUSTRY BRIEFS -- Hanoi VNA 1 Apr -- The General Salt Company of the Home Trade Ministry last year turned out 450,000 tons of salt, up by 71,000 tons over the previous year. This year it plans to increase its salt output by 84,000 tons over 1986. In the past 2 years the south central province of Thuan Hai has increased its total sea transport freight to 1,500 tons, 1,200 tons more than 1984. The Sub-institute of Physics in Nha Trang, capital of the central province of Phu Khanh has completed the elaboration of the technological process and method of production of dioxide titanium,, a necessary substance in the processing of paints, rubber, plastics, and earthenware, and in the electronic and petro-chemical industries. In the first 2 months of this year, the Hoa Tho Textile Mill, in the central coastal province of Quang Nam-Da nang, turned out 324 tons of yarn and more than 1 million metres of fabric, achieving 75 percent of the first quarterly plan or a 10-percent increase over the same period last year. The Vinh Phu Pulp and Paper Mill, northwest of Hanoi, has put into operation a river port capable of handling 1,000 tons of cargo a day. [Excerpts] [Hanoi VNA in English 0732 GMT 1 Apr 87 OW]

AUSTRALIAHAYDEN WARNS LIBYA NOT TO INTERFERE IN PACIFIC

BK020123 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] The Australian Government has issued a warning to Libya not to interfere in the South Pacific. The foreign minister, Mr Hayden, told the parliament government was concerned at the activity and presence of Libya in the region.

He said there was evidence of some activity by Libya in the South Pacific to try to establish some influence. He said the head of the Libyan People's Bureau, Mr Shaban Gashut, had said Libya intended to establish full-time residential diplomatic representation in the South Pacific. Mr Hayden said Libya's commercial interests in the region were almost nil. He said Libya was not a member of the region and did not share regional interests and concerns. Therefore, Libya's interests would be almost exclusively political.

KERIN ADDRESSES MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH PRC

BK010942 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The minister for primary industry, Mr Kerin, has told a group of visiting Chinese officials that Australia understands China's concern about the trade imbalance between the two countries. Mr Kerin made his comments at the inaugural meeting of the Joint Australia-China Ministerial Economic Commission in Canberra. The commission has been established to provide a forum to oversee and coordinate economic and commercial activities between the two countries.

The Chinese delegation is led by the chairman of the State Economic Commission, Mr Lu Dong, while the Australian Government representatives include the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Hayden; the minister for trade, Mr Dawkins; the minister for industry, Senator Button; and Mr Kerin.

In his address, Mr Kerin said that trade, which at present runs at about 3 to 1 in Australia's favor, is becoming more balanced and diversified. He said modernization of China's agriculture had significant new opportunities for a range of Australian technological products.

As well as talk on agriculture, Mr Dong, will review Australian industry initiatives in China covering iron and steel, wool, nonferrous metals, and communications. They will also cover investment by the two countries, banking and insurance, Australian aid to China, and commercial and technological cooperation.

Tomorrow, Mr Lu Dong will have talks with the prime minister, Mr Hawke.

Meanwhile, the minister for trade, Mr Dawkins, has issued his strongest warning yet over the growing trade friction between Japan and the United States. In Parliament, he described the latest developments as very disturbing to Australia and drew attention to the Japanese statements that political rather than commercial factors should be considered when conducting trade.

He said this suggestion, reportedly made by the Japanese ambassador in Washington, was of special concern.

The trade minister said that Australia had assurances from Japan made as recently as January that it would not solve its trade dispute with the United States at Australia's expense. Mr Dawkins said Australia expected those assurances to be honored.

He also aimed a warning at the United States which he said had a positive trade surplus with Australia, a significant part comprising Australian purchases of American military equipment.

HAWKE MEETS WITH ANC'S TAMBO IN CANBERRA

BK010119 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Hawke, has restated Australia's opposition to the use of violence in South Africa during talks in Canberra with the president of the African National Congress [ANC], Mr Oliver Tambo. Mr Hawke told Mr Tambo that Australia could not condone the use of violence by the South African Government or any other group in the country.

Radio Australia's Canberra office quotes government officials as saying Mr Tambo thanked Australia for its actions against South Africa and said they had heartened the black population.

During the talks, Mr Hawke said the government believed the root cause of violence in South Africa was the apartheid system and expressed understanding for the frustration felt by the ANC.

DEMOCRATS TABLE BILL TO CLOSE DOWN PINE GAP

BK010307 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0230 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] A bill to close the joint Australia-United States military facility at Pine Gap in central Australia has been introduced into the Senate. The bill was introduced by the Australian Democrats' spokesman for nuclear disarmament, Senator Sanders, who says it will be the first of a series of bills designed to close similar bases in Australia.

He says these include the Harold E. Holt at Northwest Cape in Western Australia and Nurrangar in South Australia. Senator Sanders says he believes the bases undermine world peace by helping the United States prepare for nuclear war in the Pacific region.

Radio Australia's Canberra office says the federal government and the opposition parties both support the presence of the bases for their role in arms control agreement and as part of Australia's commitment to its alliance with the United States.

MALAYSIAFOREIGN MINISTRY LOOKS INTO RECENT BOAT SEIZURE

BK010820 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry is looking closely into the recent arrest of Thai fishermen by Malaysian enforcement agencies. A statement from the ministry said it had received an aide memoire on the matter tendered to the Malaysian ambassador in Bangkok, Bakri Ayub Ghazali, on Friday by the Thai Foreign Ministry.

Eight Thai trawlers and 201 crew members were arrested by Malaysian enforcement agencies recently for allegedly fishing in Malaysian waters. However, Thai fishery authorities claimed that they were detained in a disputed area off the Gulf of Thailand. Fishermen in southern Thailand have staged demonstrations to protest against the arrest.

Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila had sent a communication to his Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Rais Yatim, which was received yesterday, requesting the ministry to look into the circumstances of the arrest. The statement added that the Foreign Ministry had begun discussions with the agencies concerned and a full study would be made.

Malaysian sea patrols, which have become more vigilant are not only to curb illegal fishing, but to prevent the smuggling of arms and drugs and piracy. Malaysian Ambassador Bakri Ayub Ghazali said this in reply to a question during a gathering at Chulalongkhon University in Bangkok. He said that greater vigilance was possible because the country now had more patrol craft.

SINGAPORESINGAPORE MINISTER ON MALAYSIAN INTERFERENCE

BK291220 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0714 GMT 29 Mar 87

[By A. Karim Shukor]

[Text] Singapore, March 29 (OANA-BERNAMA) -- Malaysian Malays have done great harm to Singapore Malays because of the spate of criticisms over remarks made by Second Defence Minister Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong on the position of Malays in the Singapore Armed Forces and the visit of Israeli President Hayim Herzog here, Minister in charge of Muslim Affairs Dr. Ahmad Mattar said Saturday.

He said the statements by some Malaysians had set back by many years the easy and constructive relations developed between Malay and non-Malay Singaporeans.

These interventions could lead to social chaos and even bloodshed if left unchecked, he said, adding: "Do not use us, Malay Singaporeans, as expendable ammunition in your domestic political infighting.

"It is us, not you, who will have to cope with the consequences of your political adventurism.

"As a result of the racial tirade that you have directed at the elected Government of Singapore as being [word indistinct], an enemy of Islam and a base of Zionism, Malay Singaporeans have, for no rhyme or reason and through no fault of theirs, been made the objects of suspicion among the non-Malays here.

"Your actions can lead to the isolation of Malay Singaporeans," said Dr Mattar, who stressed that the Herzog affair showed that racial harmony in Singapore could not be taken for granted.

He also said that once the political in-fighting in Malaysia was over, Malaysian politicians would not help repair the damage they had caused.

And while the challenge of bringing Malay Singaporeans into the mainstream of national life was formidable, the community would be able to overcome the difficulties with the co-operation of the non-Malay political leaders.

These leaders, he said, were more concerned with the progress of Malay Singaporeans than "some foreign politicians who neither care nor understand our problems."

The Herzog visit, he said, was a matter of the past for many Singaporeans, including the Malays here who, like the non-Muslims in Malaysia, had also accepted the economic and political realities in their country.

But since the departure of Herzog, Malaysian Malays had stepped up their attacks and even accused Singapore of wanting to invade Malaysia's southern Johor State.

"In fact, Malaysia is the only ASEAN partner which has allowed its political leaders to openly intervene in our sensitive domestic issues which, as you and I well know, can lead to social chaos and, if unchecked, even to bloodshed," he said.

He said what disturbed him, was that even rational men were among the Malaysians capitalising on the anti-Singapore stand to score political points.

"Presumably, these moderates have joined in because they don't want to be outflanked by the political opportunists," he added.

"When we have our own way of doing things, we set our standards, just as Malaysia sets its own. They may differ, but that does not give either party a right to pass judgment on what the other does."

RELEASED JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN THANKS AQUINO

OWO11151 Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Manila, April 1 KYODO -- Japanese business executive Nobuyuki Wakaoji called on President Corazon Aquino Wednesday and thanked her for Philippine Government efforts to rescue him during his 136-day captivity.

Wakaoji, 53-year-old manager of the Manila branch of Japanese general trading firm Mitsui and Co., was freed Tuesday night after being kidnapped last November 15 en route home from a golf club south of Manila.

Wearing a Philippine formal shirt called barong Tagalog, Wakaoji met Aquino Wednesday evening in a building in Malacanang Park housing security guards for the nearby Malacanang Palace, the president's official residence.

He told the president he condemned his kidnappers but he still loves Filipinos. Wakaoji looked a little thin but appeared in good physical condition. He is expected to be joined by his wife, Masako, and leave for Tokyo by special chartered plane Thursday after completion of a probe by Philippine authorities.

Aquino told Wakaoji her government will continue an investigation to find the kidnappers. At the outset of the meeting, Wakaoji spread his fingers to show that his kidnappers did not cut off any of his fingers, as they had claimed. It appeared from a photograph sent by the kidnappers to the Japanese media earlier that they had severed the middle finger of his right hand at the second joint.

The Japanese businessman told Aquino he had lost 14 pounds (about 6 kilograms) during his captivity, adding that he had been made to sit for much of the time and his legs felt weak. He assured her that doctors who examined him after his release found nothing else wrong with his health.

He also pointed out that his hair is now black, not gray as it was in the photographs sent by the kidnappers to the media. Wakaoji said the reason is that his abductors trimmed his hair and dyed it before they set him free. He said everything has been settled with his release and added he wanted to forget the whole thing.

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno told reporters there was a "cordial conversation" during the 20-minute meeting which was "open and punctuated by jokes."

With a broad smile, Aquino told Wakaoji, "Because of your experience, you should become the Mitsui president. It is in a crisis where better people emerge." But Aquino, becoming more serious, added, "What is important is that you are alive." Replying, Wakaoji said he was a Buddhist.

Wakaoji related how his kidnappers showed him recent press reports that he would be released very soon, raising his hopes of freedom but he said he "felt sad when newspapers neglected him."

"Although he (Wakaoji) hated his kidnappers, he loves Filipinos and he would like to do his best in order to improve R.P.-Japan relations," Benigno said.

The presidential spokesman refused to say to what hospital Wakaoji was taken to but a Philippine military official told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the Japanese executive was taken to the U.S. Clark Air Base, 80 kilometers of Manila.

The Filipino base commander, Philippine Air Force Col. Cesar Go, accompanied Wakaoji to the presidential security group headquarters for the late afternoon meeting with Aquino.

Benigno said "there are plans" for Wakaoji to return home to Japan Thursday escorted by his daughter, Maki, who is now in Manila.

Wakaoji said he never got sick during his captivity but complained that "there was never not much to eat, no magazine, no TV.

"It was difficult because my problem was how to kill time," Benigno quoted Wakaoji as saying.

Saying that his experience was "terrible," Aquino told the Japanese business executive, "Now I am sure, you will appreciate Mrs Wakaoji much more."

Benigno said the reasons for the kidnapping and the release were "not taken up" during the conversation. Wakaoji also did not describe his kidnappers and ransom "was never mentioned," Benigno added.

Benigno said a Mitsui official, who he did not identify, handed a letter from the company to Aquino. It was in a sealed envelope and was not opened during the meeting, he added.

"I assume that the letter expressed gratitude to President Aquino," Benigno said when asked what the letter contained.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos said the military and police will "dig deeper" into the kidnapping.

AQUINO TO ISSUE FORMAL STAND ON VIGILANTE GROUPS

HK011324 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 1 Apr 87 p 24

[Text] President Corazon C. Aquino will issue her formal stand on anti-insurgency civilian vigilante groups which have sprouted in various parts of the country, after Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer and Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete submit a joint report at the end of this month, Malacanang said yesterday.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said President Aquino as the "commander in chief has first to get all the facts before she can make her decision on the matter."

The press secretary begged off when asked about the government's stand on the arming of civilian vigilante groups by the military, notably the Alsa Masa (Masses Arise) in Davao city and the El Tigre [The Tiger] in Negros Occidental.

Alsa Masa is composed mainly of former New People's Army rebels and supporters who gave up the rebels' cause and became military informers. Alsa Masa members are reportedly being armed to defend themselves from their former comrades.

The El Tigre, on the other hand, is made up mainly of sugar planters in Negros who are said to have armed themselves in self defense against local communists.

Various cause-oriented groups, political parties and churchmen earlier expressed concern over the reported endorsement by President Aquino of unarmed vigilante groups.

They said the President seemed to be unaware of a possible widespread bloody conflict that might develop between armed civilian vigilante groups and civilians suspected of being communists.

Benigno declined to comment on such apprehensions. He said he might preempt the President in expressing a position since the matter is in a state of flux and she (Mrs. Aquino), while concerned about the matter, is still waiting for a formal report from Ferrer and Iletto.

Benigno's statements is seen as a subtle denial by Malacanang that the President has endorsed Nakasaka.

At the Davao City rally Sunday, President Aquino did not mention specifically Nakasaka [People United for Peace] whose members are unarmed. But newsmen covering the event believed the President alluded to Nakasaka when she publicly commended Davao Governor Douglas Cagas for supporting unarmed group organized to fight insurgency in the province.

The President's failure to acknowledge the existence of Alsa Masa met strong criticism from its chief propagandist, radio announcer Jun Pala.

Pala told BUSINESS DAY that Alsa Masa should be distinguished from the Civilian Home Defense Force [CHDF]. Under the new Constitution, the CHDF, along with all other armed paramilitary units and private armies, must be disbanded, Pala said.

Pala stressed, "If Malacanang causes the disbandment of Alsa Masa, you tell Malacanang that we will revolt from this government."

Saying that there is "no middle ground" in the fight against communism, Pala also disclosed that beginning this month, he will be traveling around the country starting with Negros Occidental, Iloilo and Bicol, to propagate the fight against communism using Alsa Masa as a model.

Further Benigno Comments

HK010151 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno has explained President Aquino's position on unarmed popular movements against communism. Art Pabellon reports on this:

[Begin recording] President Corazon Aquino is supportive of any and all organizations that effectively turn back the communists and other insurgents. This was stressed by Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno in a press briefing yesterday [31 March] at Kalayaan Hall in Malacanang. Secretary Benigno said that the president's position on the matter of paramilitary groups has been very clear: That she is in favor of any such organization provided that certain conditions are observed.

[Benigno] The president's position has always been very clear: That she is in favor of any such organizations, so long as three conditions are observed: One, they are unarmed; two, they are as a matter of fact popular movements [words indistinct]; they are effective in turning back communists and other insurgent [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Defense Secretary Comments

HK011305 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The Department of National Defense told the Department of Local Governments that the Alsa Masa [People's Uprising] and other vigilante groups should not be dissolved. According to Defense Chief Rafael Ilete although the military is not arming these groups, they cannot prevent them from carrying weapons especially if they are licensed. [Ilete recording indistinct]

On the side of local Governments Secretary Jaime Ferrer, he said that the Alsa Masa cannot be considered an armed group because they only have sharp cutting instruments and spears to fight the rebels.

Comelec Urges Dismantling

HK311424 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 31 Mar 87 p 20

[By Reporter Ma. Cecille S. Bautista]

[Text] The Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday called for the immediate disbandment of the Alsa Masa [People's Uprising], Nakasaka [People United for Peace], and all other vigilante groups for the duration of the election period.

Comelec chairman Ramon H. Felipe Jr., ordered further that these groups, even if sanctioned by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), immediately return their firearms, insignias, and uniforms to the offices issuing them.

The prohibition covering groups such as the controversial Alsa Masa is contained in a Comelec resolution which said the organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces, and other similar groups is considered illegal from March 9 to June 10, 1987, the official election period for the May 11 congressional polls.

Felipe clarified, however, that the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF), which was created by a presidential decree by then-president Marcos, is not covered by this prohibition. The CHDF units, like the rest of the AFP, will be confined to quarters and cannot bring out their arms and wear their uniforms outside of their camps, he added.

The Alsa Masa and Nakasaka must be disbanded unless they can prove that they were legally organized. It is not enough to say that they have the support of the AFP and the local government secretary, or even of the President," Felipe stressed.

President Corazon Aquino in Davao City Sunday commended the Nakasaka as effective guardians against extremist forces without the use of firearms.

"At this point, only the President, being the sole lawmaker, can legalize the existence of these groups through an executive order," he added.

Felipe also reacted to AFP chief of staff Gen. Fidel Ramos's criticism of the Comelec resolution banning CHDF and AFP men from carrying firearms in public.

Felipe said "That is not an invention of the Comelec. We are merely reproducing the election code as we had in past elections, and there is really no need to consult them."

The poll chairman assured, however, that Ramos can always ask the President or the Comelec for exemptions from the ban, if the enforcement of the resolution will pose problems in the military's antiinsurgency operations.

"If conditions warrant, that is no problem," Felipe said.

In another development, Felipe announced that the Comelec has finalized two contracts with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the National Computer Center (NCC).

The NBI project, worth P9.55 million, is for the production of voters' identification cards with tamper-proof laser-printed pictures and a computerized voter's registry by precinct with voters' pictures also laser-printed.

Selected pilot areas for the project were Makati, Calo-can, Pasay, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Danao, Laoag and Olongapo.

The joint Comelec-NCC project is for the encoding of voters' lists with the use of 20 microcomputers to be provided by the Comelec and installed in the NCC premises. Operational costs will be shouldered by NCC, which is also expected to provide Comelec staff members with database training skills for the poll body's expanded computerization project.

Meanwhile, NCR director lawyer Felix Balallo alleged that a group of people had been posing as the Comelec task force assigned to tear down and confiscate illegal election materials.

The group, which has successfully conducted its own raids, is out to discredit Balallo's task force and the Comelec, he said.

Felipe Reverses Position

HK011328 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 1 Apr 87 p 24

[Text] Commission on Elections [Comelec] chairman Ramon Felipe Jr. yesterday backtracked on his earlier statement and announced that Alsa Masa [People's Uprising] and similar citizens vigilante groups as civilian organizations are legal so long as they do not carry their arms in public.

After a closed-door session with Comelec commissioners and top military officials, which included Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Fidel Ramos and vice-chief of staff Maj. Gen. Eduardo Ermita, Felipe said the Comelec will wait for the findings of an inter-agency committee created by the President to formulate guidelines for these groups.

The committee will be composed of representatives of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], national defense department, local government department and the Philippine Commission on Human Rights.

Ramos said the vigilante groups will have to meet four conditions for them to be allowed to continue their activities.

Their activities must not be contrary to law, they must submit a list of their members to the AFP, they must be supervised by local government and military authorities, and any member violating the law will be subjected to criminal prosecution, Ramos explained.

Aquino Endorsement Criticized

HK011348 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 1 Apr 87 p 21

[Text] The Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA) Monday expressed "deep regrets" over the endorsement by President Corazon C. Aquino of the Nakasaka (United People for Peace), an anti-communist vigilante group based in Davao.

The PAHRA claimed that President Aquino fell into the trap of sacrificing human rights in favor of "political expedience" and her endorsement "reflects her insensitivity to the cry of thousands of Davaoenos who were forced to leave their homes and farms for fear of reprisal from the military and the dreaded Alsa Masa and Nakasaka vigilante groups."

The PAHRA urged President Aquino to see for herself the "havoc being wrought by intensified militarization, including self-crusading groups like the Alsa Masa [People's Uprising] and Nakasaka."

In a related development, the Partido ng Bayan [People's Party] (PnB) charged the Aquino government of violating the 1986 Constitution by endorsing the Nakasaka vigilante group.

PnB senatorial candidate Jaime Tadeo said President Aquino should review the new Constitution since her endorsement violates Article 18 Section 24 of the Transitory Provisions which calls for the dismantling of all private armies and armed groups not recognized by duly constituted authority.

Tadeo added that the continued existence of the Civilian Home Defense Force and the Alsa Masa is a clear violation of the new Constitution. The same provision also calls for the dismantling of the CHDF and all other paramilitary forces or its conversion into the regular force.

President Aquino, during her campaign sorties to Davao and Zamboanga Sunday, endorsed the Nakasaka which she said "is unarmed."

Human rights organizations and independent observers who have been to Davao insisted that the Nakasaka "is armed."

Meanwhile, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [New Nationalist Alliance] (Bayan) yesterday said it is supporting PAHRA's call for the ouster of Local Government Secretary Jaime N. Ferrer and Davao del Sur OIC [Officer-in-Charge] Governor Douglas Cagas.

The PAHRA earlier protested Ferrer's move in asking for P1.2 million from the rebel returnee program funds to finance the Nakasaka.

The PAHRA said Ferrer's action is "immoral considering that the purposes of the Nakasaka project do not tally with the National Reconciliation Development Plan." It also shows the "true color of Nakasaka," the PAHRA added.

"Far from being a voluntary organization, Nakasaka is but a covert scheme to use civilians in its war of attrition," PAHRA deputy secretary-general Depto Anda said.

Bayan popular struggles commissioner Loretta Ann Rosales, on the other hand, warned that the recent reports on the killing of Manila policemen allegedly by NPA Sparrow Units may be part of a plan to create an Alsa Masa in Metro Manila.

She said the military may be conditioning the minds of the people for the creation of an anti-communist vigilante group in Manila.

VIGILANTE GROUP BEHEADS, DRINKS BLOOD OF REBEL

HK011522 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Davao, Philippines, April 1 (AFP) -- Members of an anti-communist vigilante group based near this southern city beheaded and chopped to death a communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla and drank his blood, a member of the group said Wednesday.

George Maximino, 19, a member of the Tadtad religious cult which is known for chopping its victims and which has recently joined the supposedly unarmed Nakasaka anti-communist movement, related the incident to reporters while holding the victim's head at a funeral parlor in Davao del Sur Province.

He said he and five other Tadtad members who joined government militiamen on a patrol in the outskirts of Sta. Cruz town nearly two weeks ago engaged seven NPA guerillas in a brief firefight in which two rebels were hit.

Mr. Maximino unflinchingly recalled how his group chopped to death a wounded rebel who was not able to escape, drank his blood "to ward off his ghost," pierced his cheeks with rattan and carried his head to display in the Sta. Cruz town square.

"We killed him because he is a communist and we will do that to all of them," Mr. Maximino said. "If you will be a turncoat (to the anti-communist cause), this is what will happen to you."

The beheading was the first reported violent incident involving the Nakasaka, which was originally conceived as an unarmed vigilante group that formed patrols and intelligence networks to report on the NPA.

Anti-communism has gained ground in this once-rebel hotbed since the armed Alsa Masa group in Davao City became prominent last year, followed by the Nakasaka movement this year, although some residents say membership is forced.

During her visit to Davao Sunday, President Corazon Aquino endorsed the Nakasaka and called it an example of "people power" against the communists, but pointedly refrained from mentioning the Alsa Masa.

A Sta. Cruz police official who requested anonymity defended the Tadtad's action as "an isolated case," but Alsa Masa leaders who have developed a rift with the Nakasaka over Mrs Aquino's statement condemned the act. "The Nakasaka is even more barbaric than the Alsa Masa," spokesman Jun Pala said, adding that it was ironic that Mrs Aquino had endorsed the Nakasaka for using "peaceful means" in fighting the rebels.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno has said Mrs Aquino does not support armed vigilante groups, and has set three conditions for her backing anti-communist groups: they must be unarmed, popularly supported, and effective.

LUZON SEARCH-AND-DESTROY OPERATION CONTINUES

HK020213 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Government troops are now on the 5th day of a massive search-and-destroy operation against communist NPA rebels in the Kalinga-Apayao area. The operation, supported by helicopter gunships and Tora-Tora fighter planes from the Air Force, have already overrun a big NPA [word indistinct] and destroyed a rebel camp in the Pacu Valley.

General Fidel Ramos reported that the camp was overrun by government troops. He said reports indicated that the camp has an ammunition storage dump due to secondary explosions heard by attacking pilots. The operation, which began Sunday, involved some 3 Army battalions composed of 1,500 troops backed by fighter planes and helicopter gunships. So far, no casualty on either the government or rebel side has been reported. Bearing the brunt of the offensive against the dissidents, according to Ramos, are the Army's 5th Infantry Division and combined elements from the Constabulary and the police.

Meantime [words indistinct] the military has launched an offensive against communist rebels, particularly in the hinterland villages. Pangasinan Constabulary Commander Colonel Romeo (Odi) said military mopping-up operations that led to the discovery of a training [as heard] of the NPA in Barangay (Sita), Infanta Town, last week was the signal of the government offensive against the guerrillas. Their training camp was overrun by the combined elements of the 154th Constabulary Company and that [words indistinct] police force after a fierce firefight.

Military Operation Not Massive

HK011306 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Ileta denied reports that thousands of soldiers are carrying out intensive operation against the NPA in Kalinga-Apayao. It was reported in the newspapers that the military are pursuing the NPA's in that area. Here is DND [Department of National Defense] spokesman Ed Pangilinan:

[Begin recording in English] Secretary Ileta of the Department of National Defense talked with reporters this afternoon where he said that there is actually no massive operation conducted by the military against the NPA at the border of Kalinga-Apayao and Cagayan. What was going on there he said is a military operation that involved few helicopters which delivered some ranger units in the area to support the soldiers already there that are trying to surround an NPA encampment. An airplane was used in firing rockets to the supposed area wherein a grouping of NPA was sited. He said, aside from that, there is no massive military operation that we put up in that place. [end recording]

'EAGLE SQUADS' FORMED TO HUNT NPA 'SPARROWS'

HK271128 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Mar 87 pp 1, 7

[Text] "Eagle Squads" have been formed by police to hunt down the New People's Army's "Sparrow Units" believed to be behind the assassination of a number of military and police officers in the metropolis these past few weeks.

Manila police chief Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim ordered yesterday the creation of an "Eagle Squad" in every police station of the Western Police District [WPD] in response to the urban guerrilla attacks.

He said the squads will be fielded before the 18th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines on March 29, during which the rebels are expected to commemorate by launching a series of attacks.

Earlier yesterday, Lim and his men were commended by Capcom [Capital Command] commander Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, who is also director of the Metropolitan Police Force for their successful operations against the Sparrows.

Aguirre cited in particular the killing by Lim's men of three suspected NPA urban guerrillas during a shootout in Tondo last Monday night.

Aguirre also said he will present INP [Integrated National Police] efficiency medals to members of the anti-Sparrow team for their accomplishments.

The Capcom chief said he was elated over the quick reaction of the WPD Spotters team, led by Capt. Jose Pring of the homicide section, who engaged the suspected guerrillas shortly after their failed attempt to kill traffic policeman Moises Arcangel.

Lim told reporters that one of the three slain suspected NPAs resembled the NBI [National Bureau of Investigation] sketch of one of the three killers of Pat. Florendo Sahagun.

Aguirre also called on the public to provide information that will lead to the solution of the recent killings of police and military men. He said P100,000 has been set aside by the Capcom for the purpose. He also said that the security and protection of informers will always be guaranteed.

BODY APPROVED TO OVERSEE MINDANAO AUTONOMY

HK011312 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 1 Apr 87 pp 1, 10

[Text] Government has approved the creation of a powerful body to administer Muslim Mindanao between now and the passage of a law granting autonomy to the region.

Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez, chief of the government panel in the Mindanao peace talks, said yesterday President Aquino and his panel have agreed to establish the body called "Presidential Commission."

Pelaez told the Political Writers Forum that the administrative body will see to it that government resources and attention reach the region.

The setting up of the commission will be the panel's main proposal to its counterpart from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) on April 9, Pelaez said.

Pelaez added the government will most likely invite Nur Misuari, MNLF chairman, to head the commission's board, possibly to be composed of five or seven members. Hashim Salamat and Dimas Pundato, heads of two splinter blocs of the MNLF, will also be asked to sit in the board, he said.

Southern and Central Mindanao, the existing autonomous regions, shall be merged into a single autonomous region and placed under the commission, said Pelaez.

The body shall improve on the current administrative machineries of the two autonomous regions which have set up Muslim courts, Muslim schools and regional legislative assemblies.

With its broad powers, the commission can set up corporations, establish business and borrow money overseas to finance development projects for the region.

"It may even supervise businesses like the barter trade," he said. To expand its work scope, the commission shall take over the Southern Philippine Development Authority and other agencies concerned with the development of the region, said Pelaez.

A top-level committee drawn from respected Muslim and Christian, private entrepreneurs and political leaders will back up the government board, Pelaez said.

All the regional directors of the government agencies in the single autonomous region under the commission shall report to the governing board.

Pelaez said planning for the region shall be done in coordination with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

Pelaez explained that the commission will be an "interim body" which will "self-destruct" after the passage of a law creating an autonomous unit for Muslim Mindanao. The law will be passed in line with a constitutional provision on Muslim autonomy.

The government panel earlier rejected the 25-point demand presented by the MNLF.

Pelaez said the demands "virtually mean secession of Mindanao from the Philippines."

Among the demands is a five-year provisional government to be run by the MNLF, said the former secretary of foreign affairs.

Opposition senatorial candidate Abul Khayir Alonto, also a guest in the forum, said that majority of the Muslim leaders are opposed to the separation of Muslim Mindanao from the Republic.

"My people prefer the granting of full autonomy to Muslim Mindanao," said Alonto, formerly Misuari's vice commander.

Alonto, however, said all the rival factions of the MNLF should be included in the peace talks.

He urged the Aquino government to go back to the Tripoli Agreement if nothing happens in the current peace efforts.

The pact, signed in Tripoli, Libya in 1976, grants limited self-rule to 13 provinces in Mindanao. The agreement has been discarded by the two panels.

MNLF REFORMIST GROUP AIRS PLEA FOR PEACE

HK261105 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 26 Mar 87 p 10

[By Deedeem Siytangco]

[Text] The MNLF (Reformist Group) Executive Council under the leadership of Dimas Pundato yesterday urged everyone to "hold on to the path of peace" in the wake of violence in Mindanao.

The Executive Council also decried the failure of the government to pursue the agreement signed by the MNLF Reformist Group's Pundato and the then Minister Nene Pimentel last Jan. 23 for the group to have extensive discussions on a peaceful solution to the current Moro conflict.

The agreement led to the sending of two representatives to Manila to have dialogue with the government or its authorized representative.

The MNLF Reformist Group sent Prof. Macapanton Abbas Jr. and Hadji Napis Bidin, chairman for foreign and political affairs and secretary general respectively. However, the group said that no government action was taken in spite of a letter to President Aquino last March 16 through Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez who took the place of Pimentel.

The Council also lamented that "bias and partial participation and inclusion of Norberto Gonzales in the government panel despite the resentment and rejection of a great majority of our Bangsa Moro People."

They also protested the public statements of "Butz" Aquino about the MNLF Reformist Group referring to it as a "splinter group."

The "utterances against the MNLF Reformist Group" have reportedly drawn the anger of some units of the Bangsa Moro Army belonging to them resulting in the loss of lives and damages to property.

Abbas and Bidin appealed to everyone to hold on to the path of peace "for if peace is not given a chance," they said, "all elements hindering such efforts must be eliminated."

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